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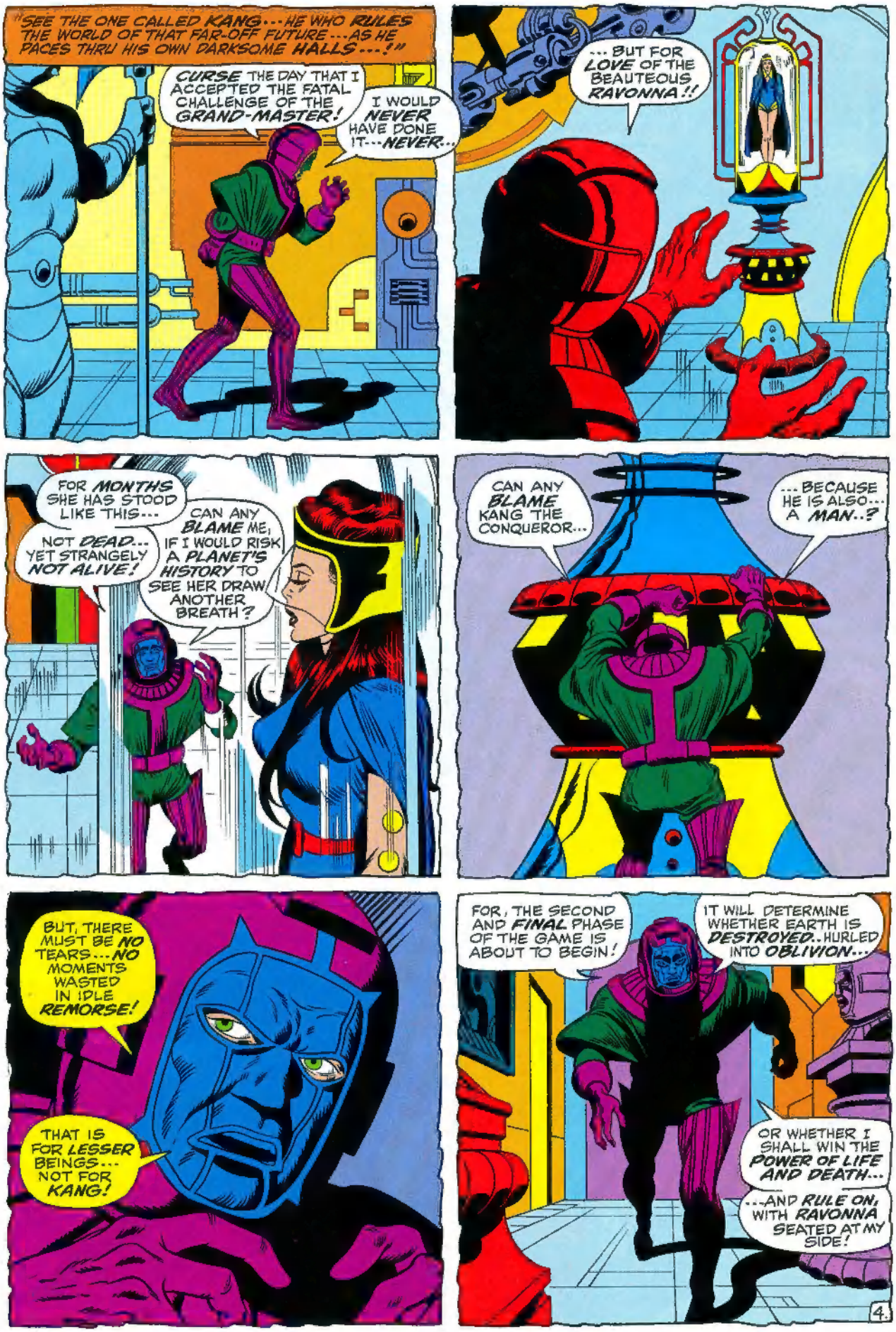
THE AVENGERS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
S. BUSCEMA GRAINGER
THE FINAL BATTLE!

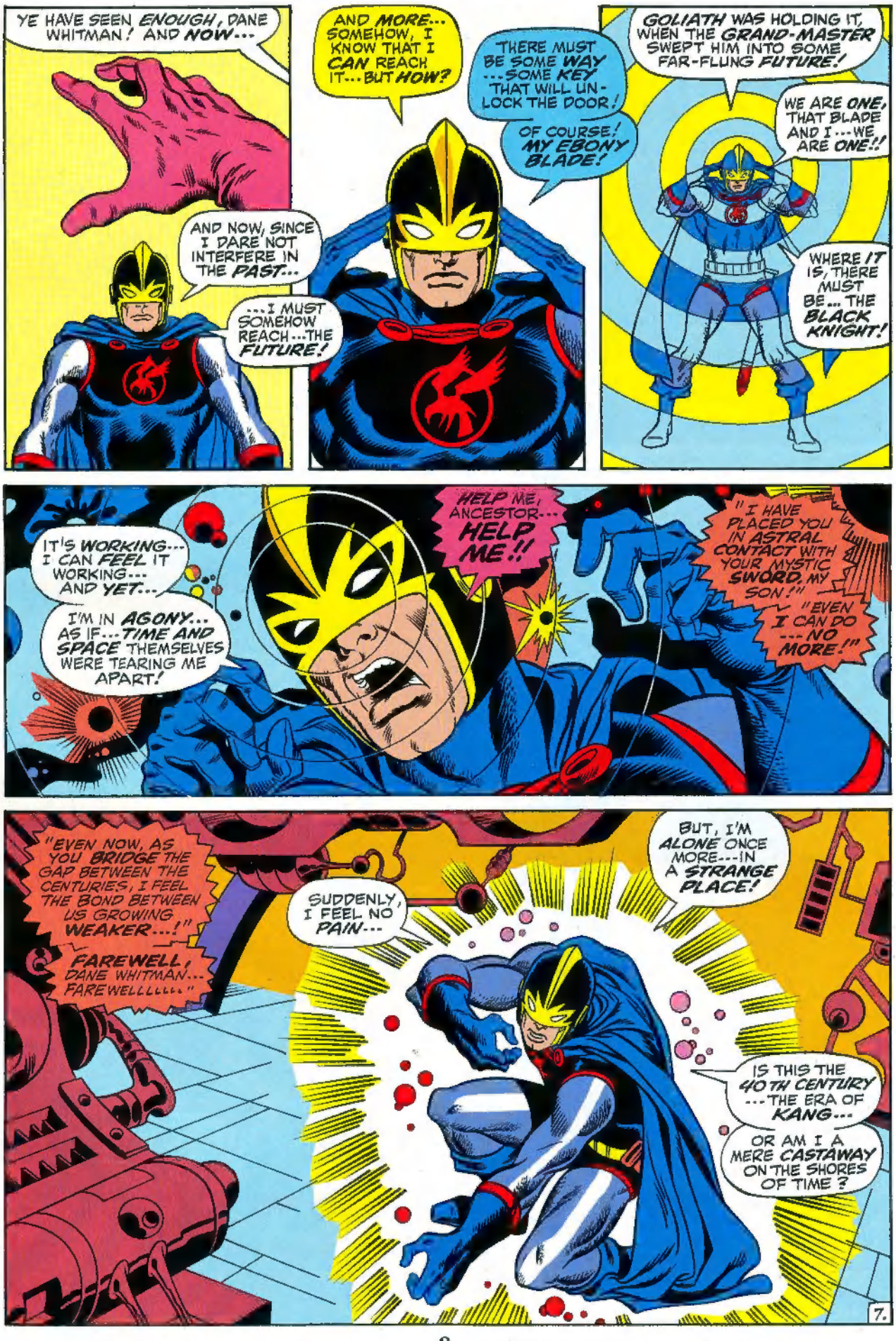
THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

THE BRAZIER! I MUST LIGHT THE BRAZIER OF TRUTH!
FOR, THE FATE OF A WORLD MAY BE DECIDED TONIGHT...
HERE, WITHIN THE MEMORY-HAUNTED WALLS OF GARRETT CASTLE!
ENDGAME!
STAN LEE EDITOR
ROY THOMAS WRITER
SAL BUSCEMA ARTIST
SAM GRAINGER INKER
SAM ROSEN LETTERER

AWAKEN, ANCESTOR MINE--- SIR PERCY OF SCANDIA--- YOU WHO WERE FIRST TO WEAR THE ARMOR OF THE BLACK KNIGHT!
ONCE MORE, YOUR HEIR HAS NEED OF YOU!
DANE WHITMAN... WHY HAVE YE SUMMONED MY SPIRIT FORM TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING?
YE ARE IMPATIENT BEYOND MEASURE, MY SON!
BUT, YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH...
...THOUGH IT MAY DRIVE YE MAD!
"BEHOLD THE IMAGES WHICH FORM IN THE FLAMES OF THE BURNING BRAZIER...BEHOLD THE WORLD OF THE 41 ST CENTURY, AND THE CASTLE OF ALL-CONQUERING KANG...!"
...THEN, IT IS AGREED, KANG!
WE SHALL PLAY THE GAME OF THE GALAXIES, YOU AND I...
...AND THE STAKES SHALL BE--- THE FATE OF THE EARTH!
BE NOT ANGRY, ANCESTOR!
I THINK YOU SENSE WHY I HAVE COME... AND WHAT I WISH TO KNOW!
IF SO, I CHARGE YOU ---SPEAK!
2.


"SEE THE ONE CALLED KANG···HE WHO RULES THE WORLD OF THAT FAR-OFF FUTURE···AS HE PACES THRU HIS OWN DARKSOME HALLS···!"
CURSE THE DAY THAT I ACCEPTED THE FATAL CHALLENGE OF THE GRAND-MASTER!
I WOULD NEVER HAVE DONE IT···NEVER..
···BUT FOR LOVE OF THE BEAUTEOUS RAVONNA!!
FOR MONTHS SHE HAS STOOD LIKE THIS···
NOT DEAD... YET STRANGELY NOT ALIVE!
CAN ANY BLAME ME, IF I WOULD RISK A PLANET'S HISTORY TO SEE HER DRAW ANOTHER BREATH?
CAN ANY BLAME KANG THE CONQUEROR...
···BECAUSE HE IS ALSO··· A MAN..?
BUT, THERE MUST BE NO TEARS···NO MOMENTS WASTED IN IDLE REMORSE!
THAT IS FOR LESSER BEINGS··· NOT FOR KANG!
FOR, THE SECOND AND FINAL PHASE OF THE GAME IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
IT WILL DETERMINE WHETHER EARTH IS DESTROYED..HURLED INTO OBLIVION···
OR WHETHER I SHALL WIN THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH···
···AND RULE ON, WITH RAVONNA SEATED AT MY SIDE!
4.

"AND NOW, YE MAY FEAST YOUR EYES UPON THE ENDGAME OF THIS FEARFUL MATCH, IN A WORLD TWENTY CENTURIES DISTANT...!"
MY THREE REMAINING AVENGERS ARE READY, IN THE PLACE THAT HAS BEEN CHOSEN!
WHERE ARE YOUR CHAMPIONS, TO REPLACE THOSE WHO FAILED?
THEY WILL APPEAR, KANG, WHEN THE MOMENT IS RIPE!
AND, THE IRONY IS THAT THEY SHALL NEVER KNOW THEY DO THE GRAND-MASTER'S WORK...
...ACHIEVING VICTORY FOR ONE WHO LIVES ONLY TO PLAY---THE GAME!!
...IT'S UNCANNY!
WE STAND ALMOST IN THE SHADOW OF THE HISTORIC LOUVRE!
KANG HAS HURLED US INTO THE NAZI-OCCUPIED PARIS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR!
A FITTING PLACE, PERHAPS, FOR THE FATE OF A PLANET TO BE DECIDED!
IF WE GET THE CHANCE, PANTHER!
THOSE GOOSE-STEPPERS OVER THERE DON'T LOOK AS IF THEY WANT A COSTUMED TRIO LOITERING AROUND!
AUF HALTEN!
IN ANY OF THE SIX LANGUAGES I KNOW---THAT TONE WAS HOSTILE!
I WAS TOO YOUNG FOR THIS WAR THE FIRST TIME AROUND...
...SO I'M GLAD TO GET A SECOND CRACK AT IT!
THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY, HANK... OR YELLOWJACKET, IF YOU PREFER!
COULD THE INSIDIOUS GRAND-MASTER MEAN TO SEND ONLY NAZI SOLDIERS AGAINST US?
HIMMEL..!
5.


YE HAVE SEEN ENOUGH, DANE WHITMAN! AND NOW...
AND MORE... SOMEHOW, I KNOW THAT I CAN REACH IT... BUT HOW?
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY ...SOME KEY THAT WILL UN-LOCK THE DOOR!
OF COURSE! MY EBONY BLADE!
GOLIATH WAS HOLDING IT, WHEN THE GRAND-MASTER SWEPT HIM INTO SOME FAR-FLUNG FUTURE!
WE ARE ONE, THAT BLADE AND I ...WE ARE ONE!!
WHERE IT IS, THERE MUST BE... THE BLACK KNIGHT!
AND NOW, SINCE I DARE NOT INTERFERE IN THE PAST...
...I MUST SOMEHOW REACH ...THE FUTURE!
IT'S WORKING... I CAN FEEL IT WORKING... AND YET...
I'M IN AGONY... AS IF... TIME AND SPACE THEMSELVES WERE TEARING ME APART!
HELP ME, ANCESTOR... HELP ME!!
"I HAVE PLACED YOU IN ASTRAL CONTACT WITH YOUR MYSTIC SWORD, MY SON!"
"EVEN I CAN DO ...NO MORE!"
"EVEN NOW, AS YOU BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE CENTURIES, I FEEL THE BOND BETWEEN US GROWING WEAKER...!"
FAREWELL, DANE WHITMAN... FAREWELLLLLL"
SUDDENLY, I FEEL NO PAIN...
BUT, I'M ALONE ONCE MORE...IN A STRANGE PLACE!
IS THIS THE 40TH CENTURY ...THE ERA OF KANG...
OR AM I A MERE CASTAWAY ON THE SHORES OF TIME?
7.

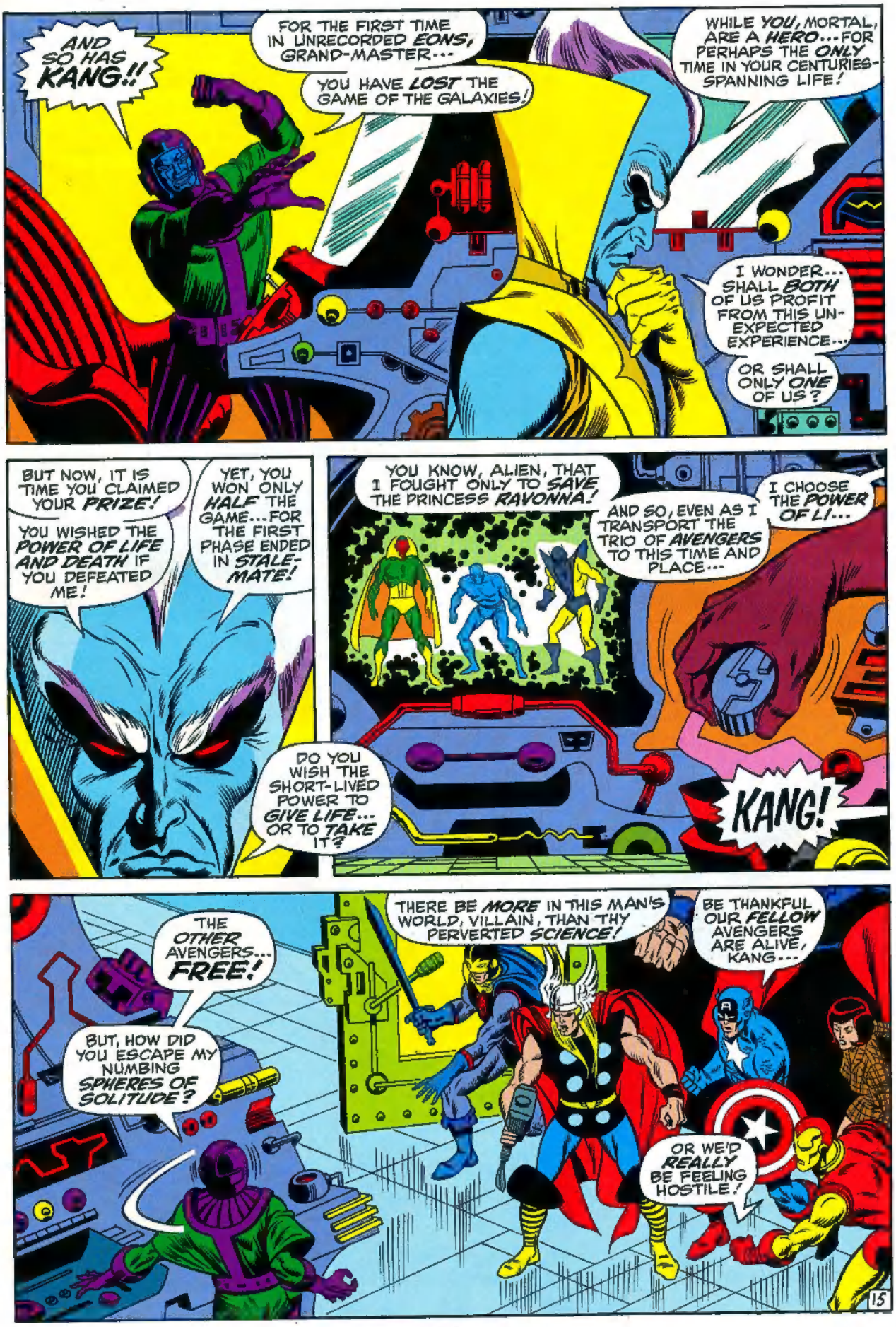
AHH... THERE'S MY ANSWER!
MY EBONY BLADE... AND NEAR IT, FOUR AVENGERS...
...HELD IN SOME DREAMLIKE STATE BY THOSE SPHERES BEHIND THEM!
THE SAME SPHERE THAT WILL SOON HOLD YOU, INTRUDER!!
UH OH! IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH IMAGINATION TO KNOW THAT THOSE MUST BE TWO OF KANG'S GUARDS!
BUT, THEY COULD LEARN A LESSON FROM A TWENTIETH-CENTURY GORILLA...
...WHICH DOES ITS CHEST-BEATING AFTER IT WINS A BATTLE!
THWAK!
AND, WHILE THAT RAY-SPEAR MIGHT LAY LOW PRINCE VALIANT...
IT HAS DISTINCTLY LESS VALUE AGAINST A BLADE FORGED BY MIGHTY MERLIN HIMSELF!
MY OWN RAY... REBOUNDING UPON ME... NO...!
NNOOOOO!!
ZZRAAP!
8

WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY, FRIEND HANK, IS---
DUCK!!
YOU ALWAYS DID HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS, JUNGLE MAN!
WHOOM!

AND, CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS ALWAYS HAD A WAY WITH LEAPS!
A WAY MATCHED ONLY BY THE BLACK PANTHER!
HE MISSED YOU---BY THE PROVERBIAL INCH!
I DIDN'T THINK---ANY MAN COULD DODGE ME LIKE THAT!
NAMOR! TO MY SIDE, AND WE'LL FINISH OFF THIS PAIR!

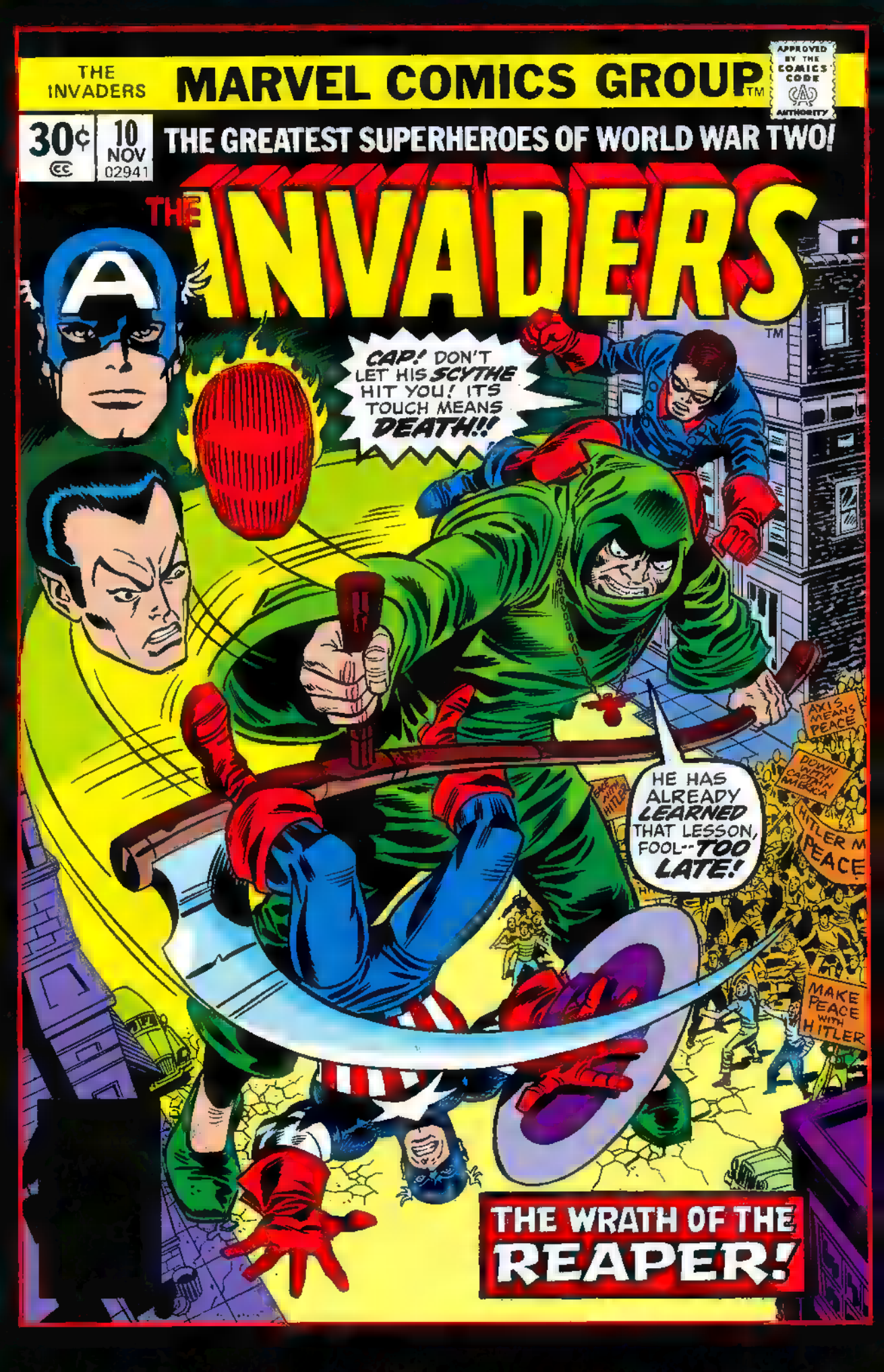
IT LOOKS AS IF THEY'RE ALREADY FINISHED, MASKED MAN!
LOOK AT THEM RUN... LIKE TWO PETRIFIED PUFFER FISH!
ARE THEY, SUB-MARINER? I'M NOT SO SURE!
I'D STAKE MY SPANKING NEW CAREER THAT THEY'RE NOT YELLOW!

WE'RE HOLDING OUR OWN... BUT IT'S GETTING US NOWHERE!
OUR ONE CHANCE MAY BE SOMETHING WHICH I WITNESSED ONLY A MINUTE AGO!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING AB...?
YOU'LL SEE IN A MOMENT, FOR IT CONCERNS THE...
...VISION!!
13


AND SO HAS KANG!!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN UNRECORDED EONS, GRAND-MASTER...
YOU HAVE LOST THE GAME OF THE GALAXIES!
WHILE YOU, MORTAL, ARE A HERO...FOR PERHAPS THE ONLY TIME IN YOUR CENTURIES-SPANNING LIFE!
I WONDER... SHALL BOTH OF US PROFIT FROM THIS UN-EXPECTED EXPERIENCE...
OR SHALL ONLY ONE OF US?
BUT NOW, IT IS TIME YOU CLAIMED YOUR PRIZE!
YOU WISHED THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH IF YOU DEFEATED ME!
YET, YOU WON ONLY HALF THE GAME...FOR THE FIRST PHASE ENDED IN STALE-MATE!
DO YOU WISH THE SHORT-LIVED POWER TO GIVE LIFE... OR TO TAKE IT?
YOU KNOW, ALIEN, THAT I FOUGHT ONLY TO SAVE THE PRINCESS RAVONNA!
AND SO, EVEN AS I TRANSPORT THE TRIO OF AVENGERS TO THIS TIME AND PLACE...
I CHOOSE THE POWER OF LI...
KANG!
THE OTHER AVENGERS... FREE!
BUT, HOW DID YOU ESCAPE MY NUMBING SPHERES OF SOLITUDE?
THERE BE MORE IN THIS MAN'S WORLD, VILLAIN, THAN THY PERVERTED SCIENCE!
BE THANKFUL OUR FELLOW AVENGERS ARE ALIVE, KANG...
OR WE'D REALLY BE FEELING HOSTILE!
15

I CAN FEEL IT... LETHAL, LIMITLESS POWER... COURSING THRU ME LIKE BLOOD!
PREPARE YOURSELVES, AVENGERS... PREPARE FOR DEATH!
HE MEANS IT, MY FRIEND!
WE MUST CHARGE HIM... FOR WE ARE THE CLOSEST!
YOU KNOW IT, T'CHALLA... BUT IT LOOKS HOPELESS!
EVEN THE COSMIC CUBE NEVER BESTOWED POWER LIKE THE GRAND-MASTER POSSESSES!
MAKE WAY, MORTALS... THIS BATTLE BE NOT FOR SUCH AS THEE!
LET THE SON OF ODIN STRIKE THE FIRST BLOW!
DON'T FEAR FOR THEIR LIVES JUST YET, THUNDER GOD!
THIS TIME, I MERELY REPULSED THEM PAINFULLY!
BUT SOON... VERY SOON...
NAY, BRAGGART! FAR SOONER, SACRED MJOLNIR SHALL...
BY THE BEARD OF THE ALL-FATHER!
YOUR HEAVEN-FORGED HAMMER SHALL NOT SAVE YOU, THOR!
I WONDER WHAT IT SHALL BE LIKE... TO WATCH AN IMMORTAL DIE!!
17

AND YOU, KANG, CAN DO NOTHING TO ESCAPE---
...THE FLAT OF MY EBONY BLADE!
SWAK!
=AAARRAHH!=
I STRUCK IN DESPERATION ---ALMOST IN FRENZY---BUT I DOWNED HIM!
HOW, GRAND-MASTER--- HOW??
I GAVE HIM POWER SUPREME OVER THE AVENGERS, MORTAL!
YOU ARE NOT OF THEIR SERRIED RANKS!
A TRICK... IT WAS ALL ..A TRICK---!
NOW, I MUST DEPART FOR NEW GAMES---NEW GALAXIES TO CONQUER!
AND, AS I RESTORE YOU VALIANT ONES TO YOUR LONG-AGO MANSION, THINK ON KANG---AND HAVE PITY!
BECAUSE HIS HEART HELD MORE HATE THAN LOVE---HIS HANDS NOW ARE EMPTY!
---WE'RE HOME FREE AND HARDLY THE WORSE FOR WEAR!
BUT KANG---LOST HIS CHANCE---TO RESTORE RAVONNA TO LIFE!
NEVER DID TRUST A GUY WHO TAKES SIDE-BETS ON A CHESS GAME!
RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO ATTEND TO, GOLIATH!
AY, PANTHER---FOR I DO SENSE THAT WE ARE TRULY OF ONE MIND!
THOUGH THE BLACK KNIGHT WAS NOT ONE OF US WHEN HE STRUCK, WE NOW WOULD MAKE HIM SO!
IF THAT MEANS YOU'RE MAKING ME AN AVENGER ---I ACCEPT!
THOUGH MY HOME IS IN ENGLAND NOW, I'LL ANSWER THE CALL WHEN YOU NEED ME!
WE ASK NO MORE, FRIEND!
RIGHT! AND NOW, JUST IN CASE HE'S FORGOTTEN WHAT THAT CALL IS...
LET'S HEAR IT ONE TIME---!
19.


THE INVADERS
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
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THE GREATEST SUPERHEROES OF WORLD WAR TWO!
THE INVADERS™
CAP! DON'T LET HIS SCYTHE HIT YOU! ITS TOUCH MEANS DEATH!!
HE HAS ALREADY LEARNED THAT LESSON, FOOL--TOO LATE!
AXIS MEANS PEACE
DOWN WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA
HITLER M PEACE
MAKE PEACE WITH HITLER
THE WRATH OF THE REAPER!

CAPTAIN AMERICA ■ BUCKY! THE SUB-MARINER! THE ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH & TORO! During the darkest hours of World War Two, these five heroes have banded together as THE INVADERS—to battle the Axis Powers to the death, in the name of freedom!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INVADERS

C-101

ROY THOMAS * FRANK ROBBINS & FRANK SPRINGER * JOHN COSTANZA * DON WARFIELD
WRITER/EDITOR ARTISTS letterer colorist

THE WRATH OF THE REAPER!

WORLD WAR TWO:

WHEN THE SHOOTING AND THE SLAUGHTER ARE FINALLY OVER, HOW WILL A STRIFE-TORN HUMAN RACE COPE MENTALLY WITH WAR-CASUALTY STATISTICS THAT WILL STAGGER THE IMAGINATION ?

WILL IT BE, PERHAPS, BY FOCUSING ON ONE DYING WOMAN -- AND MULTIPLYING ■ FATHER'S GRIEF BY 30 MILLION ?

CAPTAIN AMERICA -- SHE ISN'T BREATHING, I TELL YOU! JACQUELINE ISN'T BREATHING!

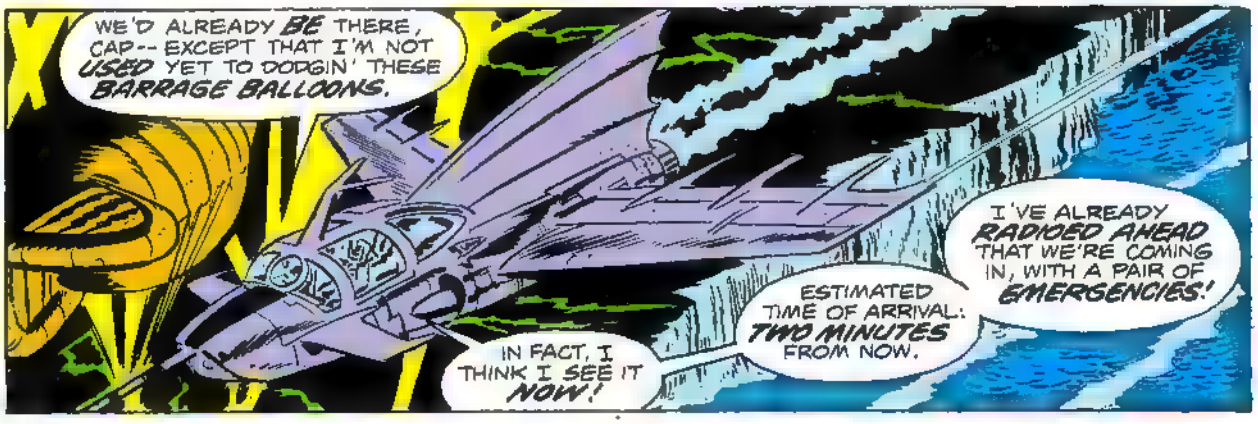
YOUR DAUGHTER IS STILL ALIVE, LORD FALSWORTH -- EVEN THOUGH SHE HOVERS BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!

THEN -- CAN'T THIS CONFOUNDED AIRSHIP OF YOURS GO ANY FASTER ?

I'VE GOT 'ER WIDE OPEN ALREADY!

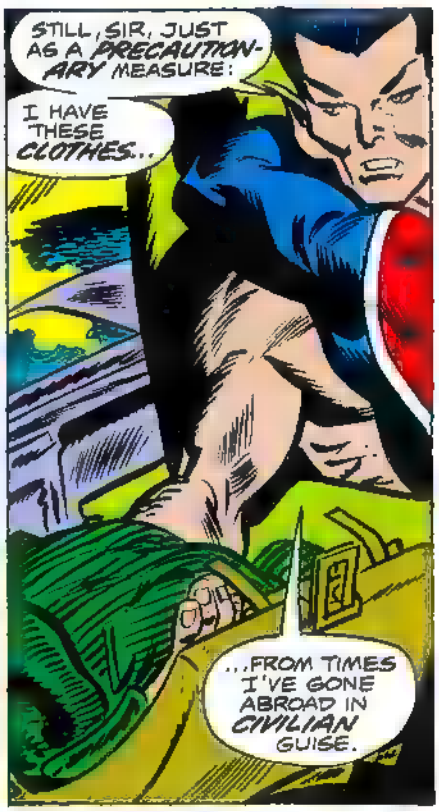
PLEASE, SIR -- WE'LL REACH THE HOSPITAL WITHIN MINUTES.

AFTER ALL, YOUR ESTATE IS ONLY A FEW MILES OUTSIDE LONDON --!

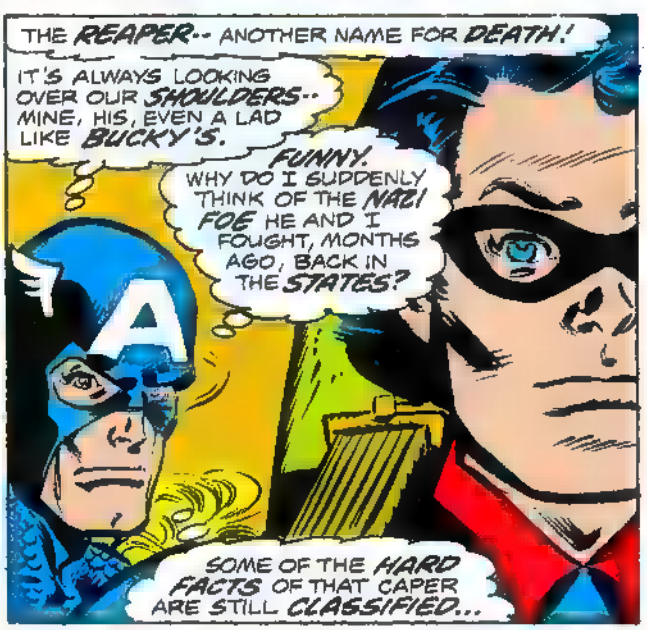

WE'D ALREADY BE THERE, CAP-- EXCEPT THAT I'M NOT USED YET TO DODGIN' THESE BARRAGE BALLOONS.
I'VE ALREADY RADIOED AHEAD THAT WE'RE COMING IN, WITH A PAIR OF EMERGENCIES!
ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL: TWO MINUTES FROM NOW.
IN FACT, I THINK I SEE IT NOW!

NO! JUST SEE TO IT THAT MY DAUGHTER IS--
YOUR LEGS WERE CRUSHED BY BARON BLOOD, SIR.
*LAST ISSUE. --ROY.
THE DOCTOR WILL TAKE CARE OF BOTH OF YOU.

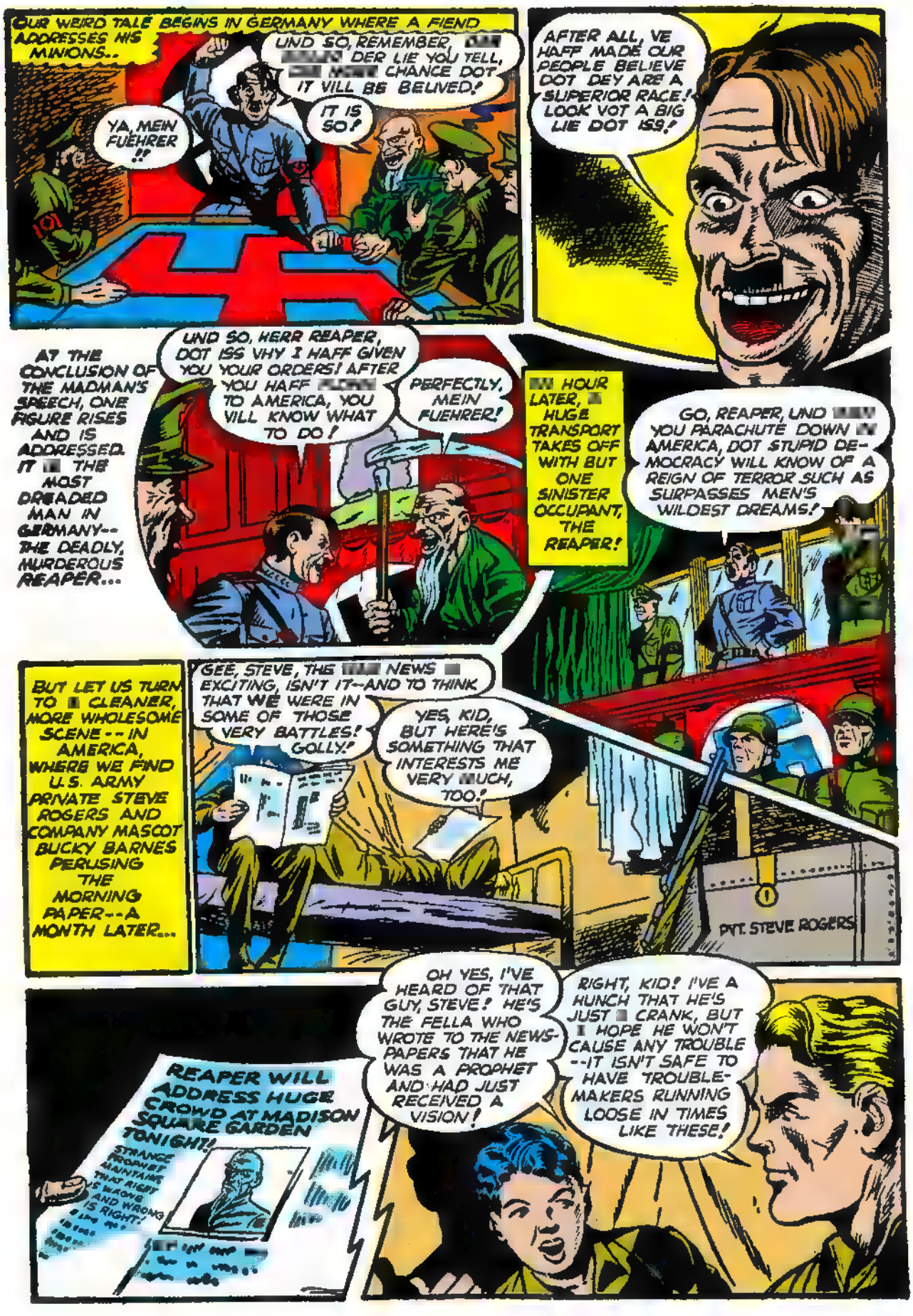
BUT-- GOOD LORD! YOUR UNION JACK COSTUME!
IF THEY GET A LOOK AT THAT--
--IT'LL DESTROY YOUR WHOLE SECRET IDENTITY!
WHAT CAN THAT POSSIBLY MATTER--NOW?

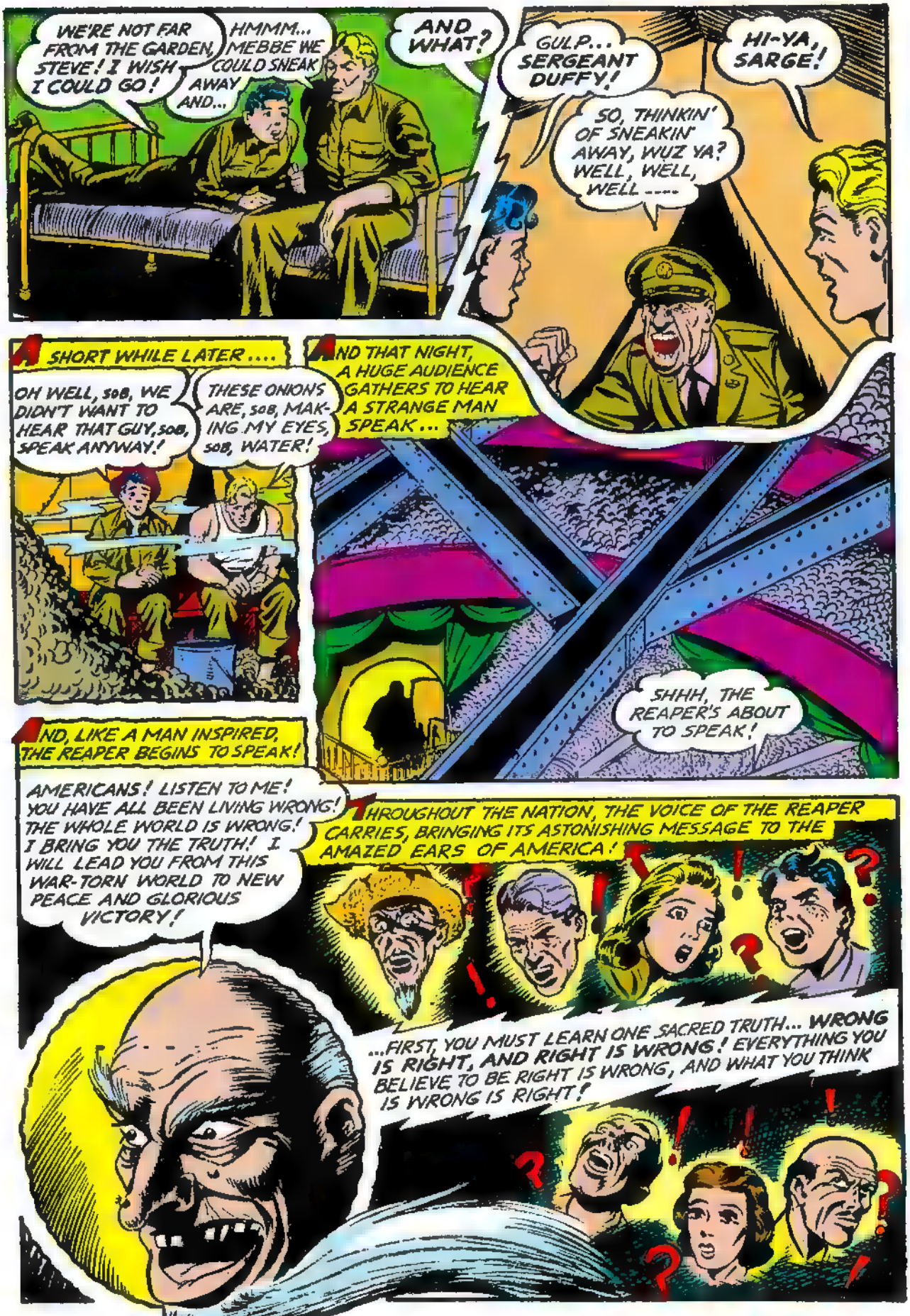

STILL, SIR, JUST AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE:
I HAVE THESE CLOTHES...
...FROM TIMES I'VE GONE ABROAD IN CIVILIAN GUISE.

THAT'S BETTER. HAVE THE DRUGS EASED YOUR PAIN, LORD FALSWORTH?
WHY SHOULD I FEAR PAIN?
AT LEAST, THAT PROVES I'M STILL ALIVE!
WHEN I FEEL NOTHING-- THAT'S WHEN I'M FAIR GAME FOR THE REAPER!

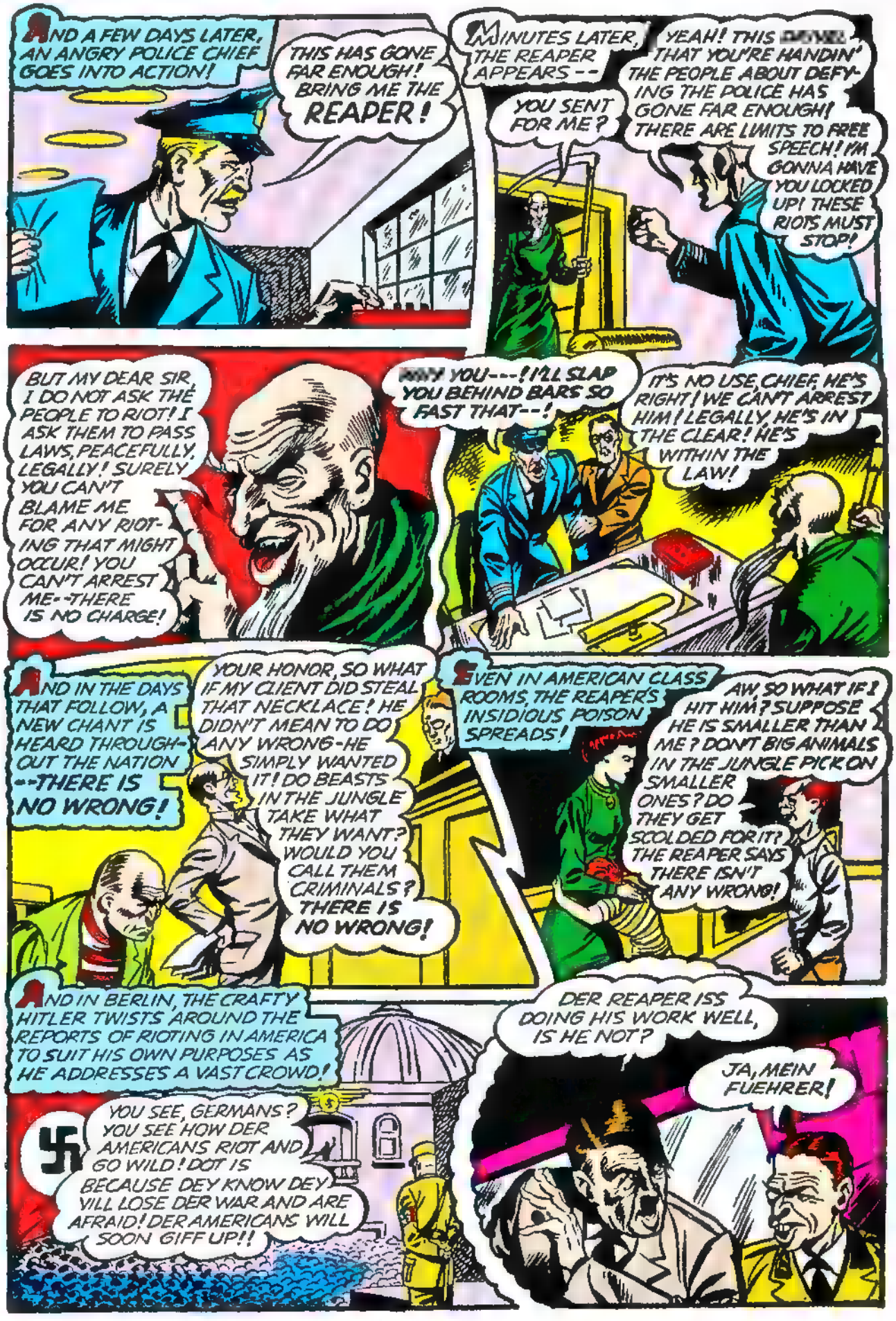

THE REAPER-- ANOTHER NAME FOR DEATH!
IT'S ALWAYS LOOKING OVER OUR SHOULDERS-- MINE, HIS, EVEN A LAD LIKE BUCKY'S.
FUNNY. WHY DO I SUDDENLY THINK OF THE NAZI FOE HE AND I FOUGHT, MONTHS AGO, BACK IN THE STATES?
SOME OF THE HARD FACTS OF THAT CAPER ARE STILL CLASSIFIED...

"...BUT, BY SHEER COINCIDENCE, A BASICALLY [redacted] ACCOUNT OF IT IS GOING TO [redacted] PUBLISHED STATE-SIDE, ANY DAY NOW!* *THE COMIC-BOOK VERSION'LL BE CALLED--
CAPTAIN AMERICA BATTLES THE REAPER!
(THE MAN THE LAW COULDN'T TOUCH!)
*CAPTAIN AMERICA #22, JANUARY 1943: ARTWORK BY AL AVISON AND AL GABRIELLE.


OUR WEIRD TALE BEGINS IN GERMANY WHERE A FIEND ADDRESSES HIS MINIONS..
UND SO, REMEMBER, [redacted] DER LIE YOU TELL, [redacted] CHANCE DOT IT VILL BE BELIVED!
YA, MEIN FUEHRER !!
IT IS SO!
AFTER ALL, VE HAFF MADE OUR PEOPLE BELIEVE DOT DEY ARE A SUPERIOR RACE! LOOK VOT A BIG LIE DOT ISS!
AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MADMAN'S SPEECH, ONE FIGURE RISES AND IS ADDRESSED. IT [redacted] THE MOST DREADED MAN IN GERMANY-- THE DEADLY, MURDEROUS REAPER...
UND SO, HERR REAPER, DOT ISS VHY I HAFF GIVEN YOU YOUR ORDERS! AFTER YOU HAFF [redacted] TO AMERICA, YOU VILL KNOW WHAT TO DO!
PERFECTLY, MEIN FUEHRER!
[redacted] HOUR LATER, [redacted] HUGE TRANSPORT TAKES OFF WITH BUT ONE SINISTER OCCUPANT, THE REAPER!
GO, REAPER, UND [redacted] YOU PARACHUTE DOWN [redacted] AMERICA, DOT STUPID DE-MOCRACY WILL KNOW OF A REIGN OF TERROR SUCH AS SURPASSES MEN'S WILDEST DREAMS!
BUT LET US TURN TO [redacted] CLEANER, MORE WHOLESOME SCENE -- IN AMERICA, WHERE WE FIND U.S. ARMY PRIVATE STEVE ROGERS AND COMPANY MASCOT BUCKY BARNES PERUSING THE MORNING PAPER--A MONTH LATER...
GEE, STEVE, THE [redacted] NEWS [redacted] EXCITING, ISN'T IT--AND TO THINK THAT WE WERE IN SOME OF THOSE VERY BATTLES! GOLLY!
YES, KID, BUT HERE'S SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS ME VERY [redacted] MUCH, TOO!
PVT. STEVE ROGERS
REAPER WILL ADDRESS HUGE CROWD AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN TONIGHT!
STRANGE PROPHET MAINTAINS THAT RIGHT IS WRONG AND WRONG IS RIGHT!
OH YES, I'VE HEARD OF THAT GUY, STEVE! HE'S THE FELLA WHO WROTE TO THE NEWS-PAPERS THAT HE WAS A PROPHET AND HAD JUST RECEIVED A VISION!
RIGHT, KID! I'VE A HUNCH THAT HE'S JUST [redacted] CRANK, BUT [redacted] HOPE HE WON'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE --IT ISN'T SAFE TO HAVE TROUBLE-MAKERS RUNNING LOOSE IN TIMES LIKE THESE!

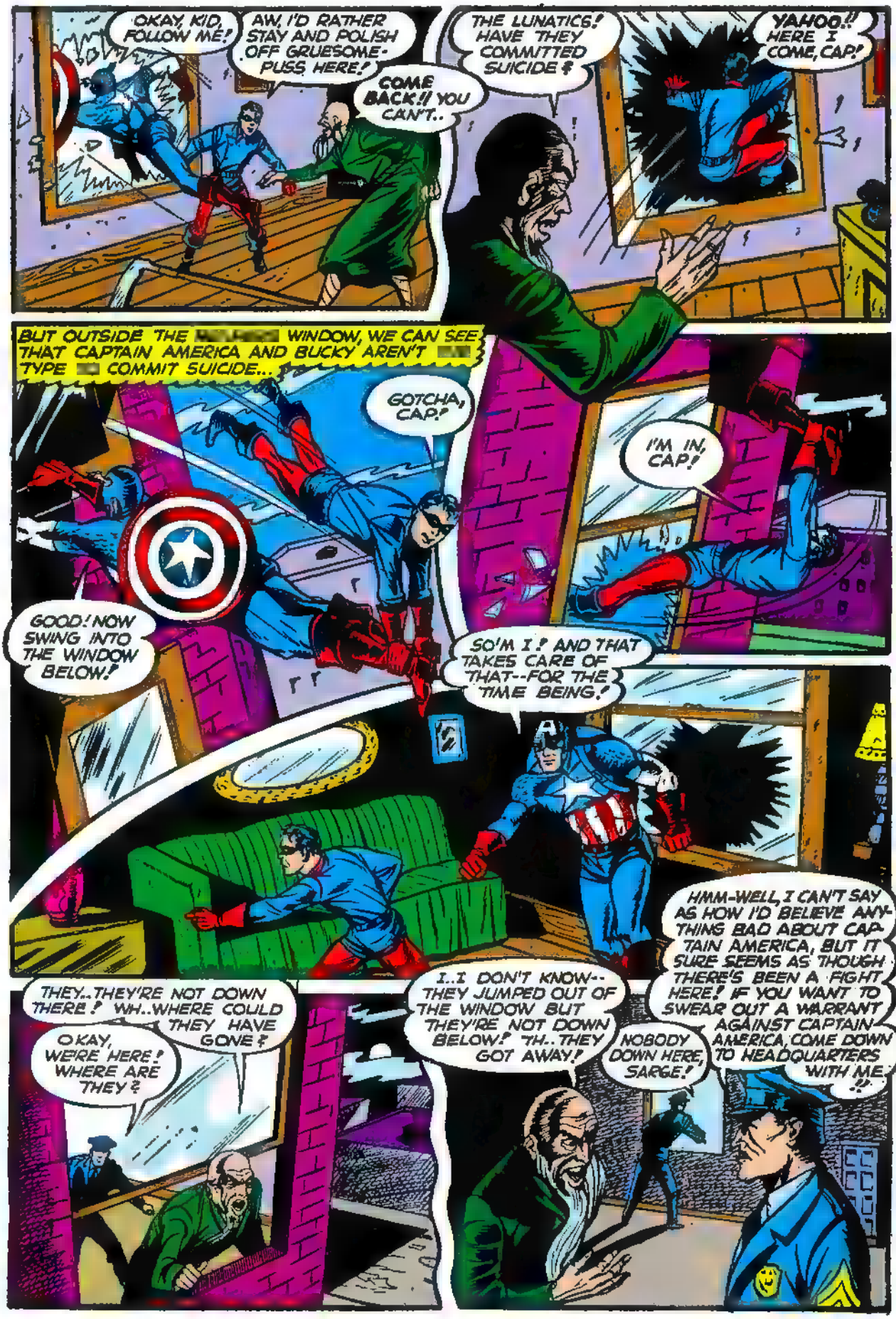

WE'RE NOT FAR FROM THE GARDEN, STEVE! I WISH I COULD GO!
HMMM... MEBBE WE COULD SNEAK AWAY AND...
AND WHAT?
GULP... SERGEANT DUFFY!
HI-YA, SARGE!
SO, THINKIN' OF SNEAKIN' AWAY, WUZ YA? WELL, WELL, WELL ----
A SHORT WHILE LATER ....
OH WELL, SOB, WE DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR THAT GUY, SOB, SPEAK ANYWAY!
THESE ONIONS ARE, SOB, MAKING MY EYES, SOB, WATER!
AND THAT NIGHT, A HUGE AUDIENCE GATHERS TO HEAR A STRANGE MAN SPEAK...
SHHH, THE REAPER'S ABOUT TO SPEAK!
AND, LIKE A MAN INSPIRED, THE REAPER BEGINS TO SPEAK!
AMERICANS! LISTEN TO ME! YOU HAVE ALL BEEN LIVING WRONG! THE WHOLE WORLD IS WRONG! I BRING YOU THE TRUTH! I WILL LEAD YOU FROM THIS WAR-TORN WORLD TO NEW PEACE AND GLORIOUS VICTORY!
THROUGHOUT THE NATION, THE VOICE OF THE REAPER CARRIES, BRINGING ITS ASTONISHING MESSAGE TO THE AMAZED EARS OF AMERICA!
...FIRST, YOU MUST LEARN ONE SACRED TRUTH... WRONG IS RIGHT, AND RIGHT IS WRONG! EVERYTHING YOU BELIEVE TO BE RIGHT IS WRONG, AND WHAT YOU THINK IS WRONG IS RIGHT!

STEVE, DO YOU HEAR THAT? HE'S A MADMAN! NOBODY WILL LISTEN TO HIM!
HMM, I DON'T KNOW, LAD! I HAVE A FEELING THAT ALL THIS GOES DEEPER THAN WE THINK!
ABOLISH YOUR LAWS! DO WHATEVER YOU WANT! THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS WRONG! EVERYTHING IS RIGHT!
THE BEASTS IN THE JUNGLE HEED NO LAWS... AND ARE THEY NOT HAPPY? HAVE THEY ANY WARS? ARE THEY NOT CREATURES OF NATURE ... EVEN AS OURSELVES? I SAY, DESTROY YOUR LAWS, AND COURTS, AND POLICE!
WELL, STEVE, WE'VE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT WITH THAT GUY! NOBODY'LL FALL FOR A LOT OF BUNK LIKE THAT!
I'M NOT SO SURE, BUCKY, I'M NOT SO SURE!
BACK IN CAMP, STEVE AND BUCKY LISTEN TO THE REAPER . . . . .
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, STEVE?
I RECALL A MADMAN NAMED ADOLF HITLER, WHO ALSO MADE UNBELIEVABLE SPEECHES TO A NATION -- SPEECHES SO UNBELIEVABLE -- SO UTTERLY FANTASTIC THAT PEOPLE BELIEVED THEM!
GAD! I'M CONVINCED HE'S RIGHT... AND I'M FOR HIM! LONG LIVE THE REAPER!
AND SO, IN DAYS TO COME, THE INSIDIOUS POISON SPREAD BY THE REAPER SPREADS DEEPER INTO THE AMERICAN MIND!
WHAT HE SAYS MAY SOUND GOOD, BUT IT'S FANTASTIC!
STILL, IT DOES SOUND GOOD!
MAYBE HE'S RIGHT!
WHY, THE REAPER MUST BE A LUNATIC!
DOWN WITH THE LAW!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS WRONG!
DESTROY THE POLICE!
MUNICIPAL BUILDING


AND A FEW DAYS LATER, AN ANGRY POLICE CHIEF GOES INTO ACTION!
THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH! BRING ME THE REAPER!
MINUTES LATER, THE REAPER APPEARS --
YOU SENT FOR ME?
YEAH! THIS [illegible] THAT YOU'RE HANDIN' THE PEOPLE ABOUT DEFYING THE POLICE HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH! THERE ARE LIMITS TO FREE SPEECH! I'M GONNA HAVE YOU LOCKED UP! THESE RIOTS MUST STOP!
BUT MY DEAR SIR, I DO NOT ASK THE PEOPLE TO RIOT! I ASK THEM TO PASS LAWS, PEACEFULLY, LEGALLY! SURELY YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR ANY RIOTING THAT MIGHT OCCUR! YOU CAN'T ARREST ME--THERE IS NO CHARGE!
WHY YOU---! I'LL SLAP YOU BEHIND BARS SO FAST THAT--!
IT'S NO USE, CHIEF, HE'S RIGHT! WE CAN'T ARREST HIM! LEGALLY, HE'S IN THE CLEAR! HE'S WITHIN THE LAW!
AND IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, A NEW CHANT IS HEARD THROUGHOUT THE NATION --THERE IS NO WRONG!
YOUR HONOR, SO WHAT IF MY CLIENT DID STEAL THAT NECKLACE! HE DIDN'T MEAN TO DO ANY WRONG-HE SIMPLY WANTED IT! DO BEASTS IN THE JUNGLE TAKE WHAT THEY WANT? WOULD YOU CALL THEM CRIMINALS? THERE IS NO WRONG!
EVEN IN AMERICAN CLASS ROOMS, THE REAPER'S INSIDIOUS POISON SPREADS!
AW, SO WHAT IF I HIT HIM? SUPPOSE HE IS SMALLER THAN ME? DON'T BIG ANIMALS IN THE JUNGLE PICK ON SMALLER ONES? DO THEY GET SCOLDED FOR IT? THE REAPER SAYS THERE ISN'T ANY WRONG!
AND IN BERLIN, THE CRAFTY HITLER TWISTS AROUND THE REPORTS OF RIOTING IN AMERICA TO SUIT HIS OWN PURPOSES AS HE ADDRESSES A VAST CROWD!
YOU SEE, GERMANS? YOU SEE HOW DER AMERICANS RIOT AND GO WILD! DOT IS BECAUSE DEY KNOW DEY VILL LOSE DER WAR AND ARE AFRAID! DER AMERICANS WILL SOON GIFF UP!!
DER REAPER ISS DOING HIS WORK WELL, IS HE NOT?
JA, MEIN FUEHRER!

WHILE, BACK IN AMERICA, GREAT MINDS CONFER ON THE PROBLEM OF WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE RAPIDLY SPREADING MENACE OF THE REAPER!
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO? WE CAN'T ARREST HIM! HE HASN'T BROKEN ANY LAWS!
WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS SHOW THE PEOPLE HOW WRONG HE IS! WE MUST COMBAT HIS TERRIBLE PROPAGANDA!
BUT THESE RIOTS MUST STOP! THE PROBLEM IS GETTING VERY SERIOUS!
WITH HIS OUTLANDISH COSTUME AND HIS SCYTHE, HE HAS CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION OF THE PEOPLE! WHOM CAN WE FIND TO OPPOSE HIM?
WHOM?
WHOM, DID HE ASK? THERE ARE TWO CERTAIN AMERICANS WHO HAVE ALWAYS ANSWERED THEIR NATION'S CALL FOR HELP--AND WILL NOT FAIL IT NOW--BACK TO U.S. ARMY CAMP LEHIGH--AND A SMALL TENT---
BUCKY, THE REAPER HAS BECOME TOO SERIOUS A THREAT TO AMERICA! HE MUST BE STOPPED!
HOT DOG, STEVE! I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!
READY, BUCKY?
READY!
AND SO, IN THE NIGHT, UPON WHAT I PROVE ONE OF THE WEIRDEST ADVENTURES, SPEED AMERICA'S ACE EVIL-SMASHERS, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY!
YAHOO!
RACING THROUGH THE COUNTRY-SIDE AT WHIRLWIND SPEED, THE DYNAMIC DUO SOON REACH THE CITY---
THIS IS ONE TIME WE WON'T HAVE TO SEARCH FOR OUR MAN--EVERYONE KNOWS THE REAPER'S ADDRESS!
YEAH, HE'S SO SURE HE WON'T BE ARRESTED THAT HE EVEN ADVERTISES HIS HEADQUARTERS!!
FINALLY...
THIS IS THE PLACE, CAP!
UH HUH-NOW HOW TO GET UP THERE?
WELL, WHY TRY TO GET IN THE HARD WAY? WE'LL JUST GO IN THE FRONT ENTRANCE AND RING THE BELL!
BUCKY!

WHILE INSIDE THE REAPER'S OFFICE...
YES, MEN, EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN--IN A FEW WEEKS THERE WILL BE SUCH RIOTS AND TROUBLE THAT THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS ABROAD WILL WANT TO RETURN HOME!
ACH GOODT!
SUDDENLY...
THE WARNING SIGNAL! SOMEONE IS COMING!
MR. REAPER, I PRESUME!
CAPTAIN AMERICA!!
WH..WHAT DO YOU WANT?
BE CALM, REAPER--I JUST WANT TO HAVE A CHAT WITH YOU! YOU'RE CAUSING QUITE A LOT OF TROUBLE, YOU KNOW!
I KNOW YOU CAN'T [redacted] TOUCHED, LEGALLY, BUT UNLESS THESE RIOTS STOP FAST, YOU'LL WISH YOU'D NEVER STARTED THIS!
ACH--YOU CAN DO NOTHING TO ME! I OBEY EVERY LAW AND I'M A CITIZEN! IF YOU START ANY TROUBLE, I WILL TAKE YOU TO THE POLICE!
YOU CAN'T THREATEN ME! [redacted] OUT, OR I'LL THROW YOU OUT!
I WOULDN'T ADVISE YOU TO TRY THAT, REAPER!
THROW THE SWINE OUT!
I'LL SHOW THESE DEMOCRATIC DOGS THAT THEY DEFY A FAR SUPERIOR FOE--GET THEM, MEN!


OKAY, KID, FOLLOW ME!
AW, I'D RATHER STAY AND POLISH OFF GRUESOME-PUSS HERE!
COME BACK!! YOU CAN'T..
THE LUNATICS! HAVE THEY COMMITTED SUICIDE?
YAHOO!! HERE I COME, CAP!
BUT OUTSIDE THE [redacted] WINDOW, WE CAN SEE THAT CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY AREN'T [redacted] TYPE [redacted] COMMIT SUICIDE...
GOTCHA, CAP!
I'M IN, CAP!
GOOD! NOW SWING INTO THE WINDOW BELOW!
SO I'M I! AND THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT--FOR THE TIME BEING!
HMM-WELL, I CAN'T SAY AS HOW I'D BELIEVE ANYTHING BAD ABOUT CAPTAIN AMERICA, BUT IT SURE SEEMS AS THOUGH THERE'S BEEN A FIGHT HERE! IF YOU WANT TO SWEAR OUT A WARRANT AGAINST CAPTAIN AMERICA, COME DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS WITH ME.
!?
THEY..THEY'RE NOT DOWN THERE! WH..WHERE COULD THEY HAVE GONE?
I..I DON'T KNOW--THEY JUMPED OUT OF THE WINDOW BUT THEY'RE NOT DOWN BELOW! TH..THEY GOT AWAY!
OKAY, WE'RE HERE! WHERE ARE THEY?
NOBODY DOWN HERE, SARGE!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THEY GOT AWAY SO EASILY, BUT I'LL SWEAR OUT A WARRANT FOR THEIR ARREST AND THEN THEY'LL TROUBLE ME NO MORE!
BUT THE REAPER IS WRONG ON BOTH COUNTS! WE HEAR MORE OF CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY--AND THEY DIDN'T GET AWAY AS EASILY AS HE THINKS--FOR--
HONESTLY, MA'AM, WE'RE NOT ROBBERS--WE WON'T HARM YOU! DON'T GET EXCITED! WE'LL LEAVE IN A FEW MINUTES! PLEASE DON'T SCREAM! PLEASE!
DOZENS OF APARTMENTS IN THIS HOUSE AND YOU HADDA PICK THIS ONE!
THE NEXT DAY...
FLASH! CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY ARE WANTED BY THE POLICE FOR HOUSE-BREAKING AND ASSAULT! BOTH THE REAPER AND HIS PLENTIPLUMP ACCUSE THEM OF BREAKING INTO THEIR APARTMENTS!
WELL, PARTNER, WHAT NOW?
THAT'S A PROBLEM, KID!!
IF WE GO BACK TO CAMP AS STEVE ROGERS AND BUCKY BARNES, WE GET NABBED FOR SNEAKING AWAY!--AND IF WE STAY IN COSTUME, WE GET PICKED UP FOR HOUSE-BREAKING AND ASSAULT!
BUT STEVE SUDDENLY GETS AN IDEA...
BUCKY, I'VE GOT IT! HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO!!
A FEW SECONDS LATER, BOTH RUN OFF IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS AND FADE AWAY INTO THE NIGHT...
GOOD LUCK, LAD!
THANKS, STEVE --YOU TOO! S'LONG!
WHILE, DEEP UNDERGROUND IN A HIDDEN TUNNEL, THE REAPER AND HIS HIDEOUS BAND OF NAZI FOLLOWERS LAY THEIR FINAL PLANS!
MEN, THE TIME HAS COME! CAPTAIN AMERICA WILL NOT BOTHER US AGAIN! THE POLICE ARE POWERLESS AGAINST US UNLESS WE ACTUALLY BREAK ANY LAWS--WHICH WE WON'T!

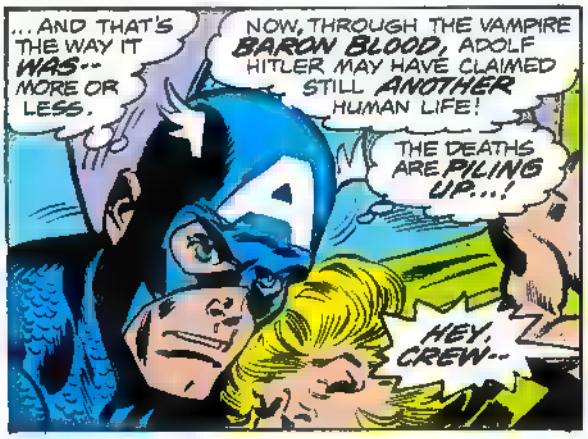
THE PEOPLE ARE CONFUSED, BAFFLED--THEY DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO TURN! THEY THINK MAYBE WE ARE RIGHT! THEY THINK MAYBE THEY CAN DO NO WRONG--THEY THINK IT WOULD BE WELL TO DESTROY THE LAW!
ACH-DER FUEHRER VAS RIGHT! TELL DER PEOPLE A BIG ENOUGH LIE UND DEY VILL BELIEVE IT!
SO! LET US ACT NOW ACCORDING TO PLAN! WE HAVE ENOUGH FOLLOWERS AMONG THE STUPID AMERICANS TO INSURE OUR SUCCESS! COME! HEIL HITLER!
HEIL HITLER!
BUT AT THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, A GAWKY-LOOKING FIGURE MAKES SOME INQUIRIES AT THE REAPER'S OFFICE.. BUT STOP-ISN'T HE A FAMILIAR FIGURE?
PARDON ME, COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE I MIGHT FIND MR. REAPER? I..EH.. AM A FOLLOWER OF HIS!
YEAH, HE'S GONNA MAKE A SPEECH AT COLUMBUS CIRCLE IN A FEW MINUTES--YOU CAN FIND HIM THERE!
COLUMBUS CIRCLE, EH? IT'S ONLY A FEW BLOCKS AWAY--I'LL WALK THERE!
AND AT COLUMBUS CIRCLE, THE REAPER BEGINS HIS FINAL SPEECH..
YOU HAVE ALL SEEN THAT WRONG IS RIGHT AND RIGHT IS WRONG! EVEN YOUR FAMOUS CAPTAIN AMERICA IS WANTED BY THE POLICE!
YOU ARE FIGHTING HITLER-A MAN YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN! YOU ARE RUINING YOUR NATION! I SAY STOP THIS WAR! WHAT DO YOU CARE ABOUT HITLER OR HIROHITO? STOP THIS WAR AND SEIZE THE GOVERNMENT YOURSELVES! YOU AND I--ARE POWERFUL! NOTHING CAN STOP US! RIOT-REVOLT-DESTROY AT WILL! YOU CAN DO NO WRONG-THERE IS NO WRONG! LET ME LEAD YOU TO PEACE AND WEALTH!
HMM-VERY INTERESTING!
MAKE PEACE WITH HITLER!

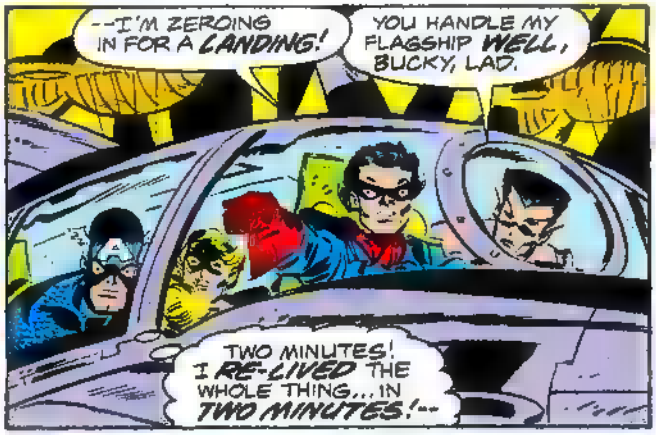
SWAYED BY THE MAGIC OF THE REAPER'S VOICE, THE CROWD BEGINS TO TREMBLE WITH EXCITEMENT...
DESTROY THE GOVERNMENT! THE REAPER IS RIGHT!
THE WHOLE WORLD HAS GONE MAD! EVEN CAPTAIN AMERICA --OUR NATIONAL HERO IS WANTED BY THE POLICE!
PEACE WITH HITLER
YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME, REAPER! YOU MUST BE DESTROYED NOW BEFORE YOUR POISON BECOMES TOO FIRMLY LODGED IN THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE!
AT THAT MOMENT, A POWERFUL, COMMANDING VOICE RINGS OUT...
STOP!
CAPTAIN AMERICA!
CAPTAIN AMERICA IS A CRIMINAL! HE'S WANTED BY THE POLICE! STOP HIM!! GET HIM!!
LISTEN TO YOUR BRAVE LEADER! LISTEN TO HIS CRIES OF FEAR AND TERROR! IS THIS THE MAN YOU WOULD FOLLOW AND BE LED BY?
BUT [redacted] REAPER'S OWN MEN, SPIES ALL, RACE AT CAPTAIN AMERICA WITH THE MURDERLUST IN THEIR HEARTS...
GET HIM!
WHERE DID HE GO?
KILL HIM!
GET HIM!

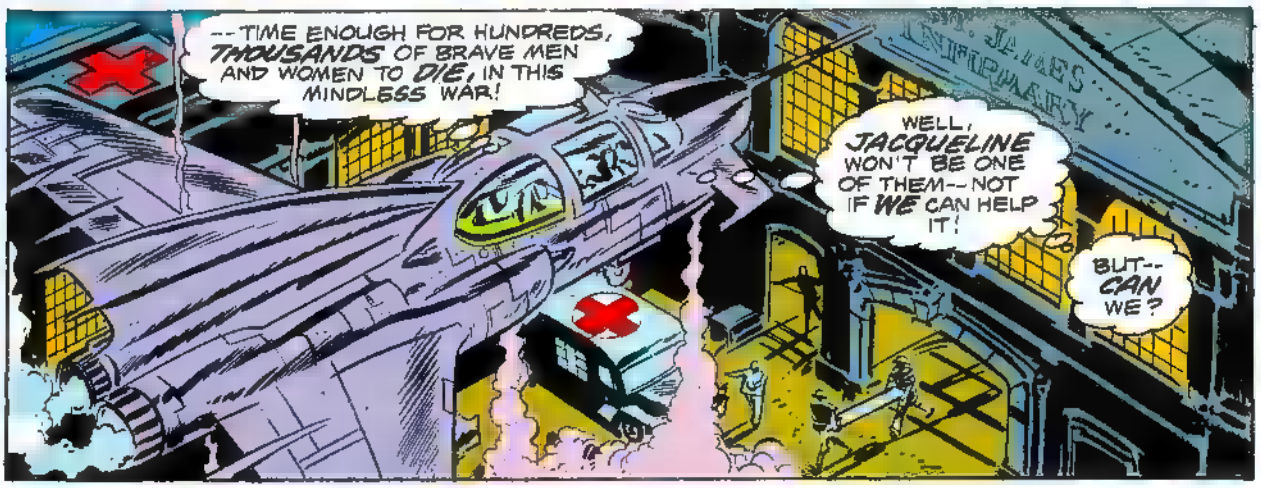
WHERE IS HE? FIND HIM! [redacted] MUST... ULP!
LOOKING FOR ME?
DOG, TAKE THIS!
OH!
COME NOW--I HAVE DEFEATED CAPTAIN AMERICA! ON TO CITY HALL TO CAPTURE IT!"
ON TO CITY HALL!
BUT EVEN AS THE UNHEEDING CROWD RUSHES OFF, A MIGHTY FIGURE SLOWLY RISES TO HIS FEET! THE SPIRIT OF CAPTAIN AMERICA IS TOO STRONG TO BE DOWNED BY THE BLOW ON THE HEAD, AND IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A MAN WITH A SCYTHE TO DEFEAT HIM WHEN HIS COUNTRY HAS NEED OF HIM!
WHOSH WHAT A SOCK!
HE CAN STILL BE STOPPED IF ONLY BUCKY HAS CARRIED MY INSTRUCTIONS!
CAP, CAP, WAIT FOR ME!
BUCKY, AT LAST!
BUCKY, LAD, DID YOU GET IT?
YES, CAP, HERE IT IS!
THIS IS IT, KID! THIS PROVES THAT THE REAPER ISN'T AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AT ALL, BUT A NAZI AGENT! LET'S GO, BUCKY, WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

SECONDS LATER, CAP AND BUCKY REACH CITY HALL TO FIND THAT THE [redacted] AND HIS MOB HAVE BEAT THEM TO IT...
HERE WE ARE, CAP, BUT HOW'LL WE GET TO THE REAPER?
HOP IN THAT BUS, KID! I'LL SHOW YOU!
MAKE [redacted] FOR THE FREEDOM EXPRESS!
YA HOO!!
LOOK OUT!!
GET OUT OF THE WAY!
LOOK, CHIEF- IT'S THAT BRAT, BUCKY!
BAH, AS LONG AS CAPTAIN AMERICA IS NOT WITH HIM, WE HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA IS HERE, NAZIS!
IT... IT'S HIM!
THIS TIME I'M PLAYING FOR KEEPS!
CAP [redacted] DUCKING INTO THAT SUBWAY!
I'LL GET HIM, KID!
NOW THAT I'M SURE YOU'RE A NAZI, REAPER, BELIEVE ME, YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE!
COME AND GET ME, SWINE!
I'LL DO THAT LITTLE THING!

FIRST, I'LL ATTEND TO THIS LITTLE PLAY-THING OF YOURS!
AND THEN, I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
BUT THE PANIC-STRICKEN REAPER TURNS AND RACES THRU THE TUNNEL AS CAPTAIN AMERICA CALLS AFTER HIM...
NO..NO YOU'LL NEVER GET ME!
LOOK OUT, YOU FOOL! THE THIRD RAIL! LOOK OUT!
AIEEEEEEE!
AND SO ENDS ANOTHER MENACE TO OUR NATION!
MINUTES LATER...
I SHOWED THE CROWD THE PAPERS FROM THE F.B.I. LIKE YOU TOLD ME, CAP, AND THEY REALIZED THEY HAD BEEN FOOLED AND MISLED BY A SPY! ALL THE RIOTING STOPPED!
GOOD, LAD, GOOD!
ISN'T IT FUNNY HOW SO MANY PEOPLE WERE FOOLED BY ALL THE ROT THE REAPER TOLD THEM?
NO, BUCKY, NOT FUNNY-TRAGIC! MEN LIKE THE [redacted] HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO FOOL SOME PEOPLE-WHICH IS WHY WE SHOULD ALL TRUST OUR LEADER AND NOT LISTEN TO RABBLE-ROUSING TROUBLE-MAKERS!
AND IN BERLIN, A SLIGHTLY ANNOYED MEMBER OF THE "SUPER-RACE" RECEIVES A CABLEGRAM...
MY PLAN--IT'S RUINED! MY REAPER--HE'S DEAD! CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS STOPPED ME AGAIN! MAY HE SUFFER ALL THE TORTURES OF THE DOOMED! CURSE HIM!
AND BACK AT CAMP LEHIGH, TWO SLIGHTLY MISUNDERSTOOD PRIVATES BEGIN A TASK TO WHICH THEY SHOULD BE GROWING VERY ACCUSTOMED...
CAN YOU IMAGINE MAKING US MOP THE WHOLE PLACE JUST 'CAUSE WE WERE AWOL FOR A LITTLE WHILE! I THINK WE WERE BORN UNLUCKY! IT MUST BE A CURSE!
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THERE WAS ONE PERSON IN BERLIN WHO'D LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THAT, BUCK, I WOULDN'T BE AT ALL SURPRISED!


...AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS-- MORE OR LESS.
NOW, THROUGH THE VAMPIRE BARON BLOOD, ADOLF HITLER MAY HAVE CLAIMED STILL ANOTHER HUMAN LIFE!
THE DEATHS ARE PILING UP...!
HEY, CREW--



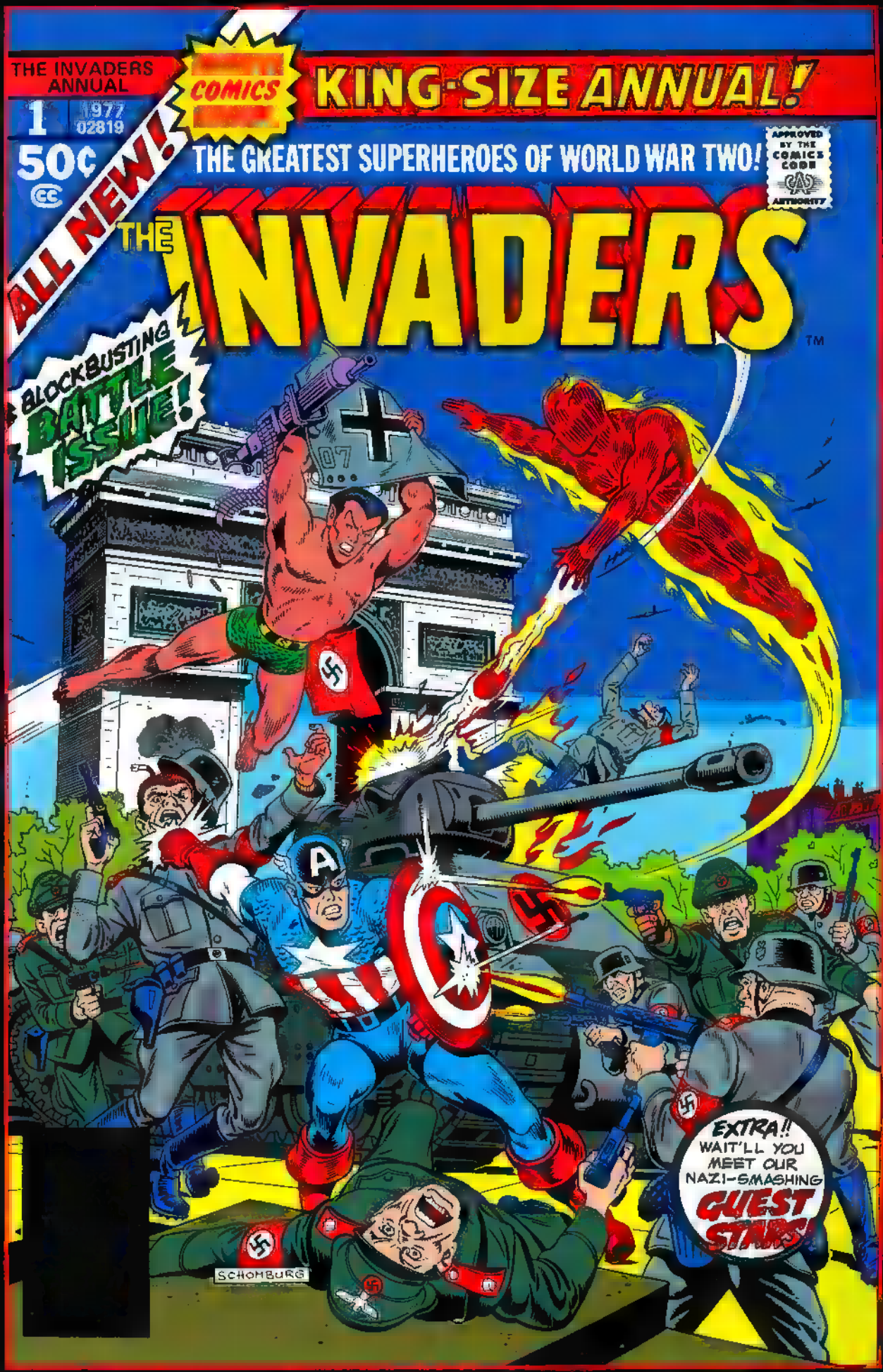

--TIME ENOUGH FOR HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS OF BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN TO DIE, IN THIS MINDLESS WAR!
ST. JAMES INFIRMARY
WELL, JACQUELINE WON'T BE ONE OF THEM-- NOT IF WE CAN HELP IT!
BUT-- CAN WE?

WE 'EARD THE RADIO MESS-AGE, THAT YOU YANKS WERE ARRIVING!
IS THAT THE PATIENT?
ONE OF TWO, MATE.
HURRY UP WITH THE STRETCHER!
THIS WOMAN'S IN BAD SHAPE!

WE GOT OFF LUCKY AGAINST HITLER'S REAPER-- BUT, THERE'S A REAL "GRIM REAPER" OUT THERE, IN THE DARKNESS-- WAITING FOR ALL OF US--
--WAITING FOR US TO MAKE A WRONG DECISION-- A SINGLE MISSTEP, AND THEN--
YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE IT, JACQUELINE! YOU'VE JUST GOT TO!

SPECIAL NOTE: THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME RE-PRESENTATION OF ONE OF COMICDOM'S **CLASSIC ADVENTURES** FROM THE WAR YEARS WAS INCLUDED SO THAT ROY AND FRANK COULD CATCH UP WITH OUR NEW **MONTHLY SCHEDULE** WHICH HAD CAUGHT EVERYBODY JUST A WEE BIT **OFF GUARD.** BUT FROM HERE ON IN, IT'S **ALL-NEW** WONDERMENT ALL THE WAY!

NEXT ISSUE: NIGHT OF THE **BLUE BULLET!**


THE INVADERS ANNUAL
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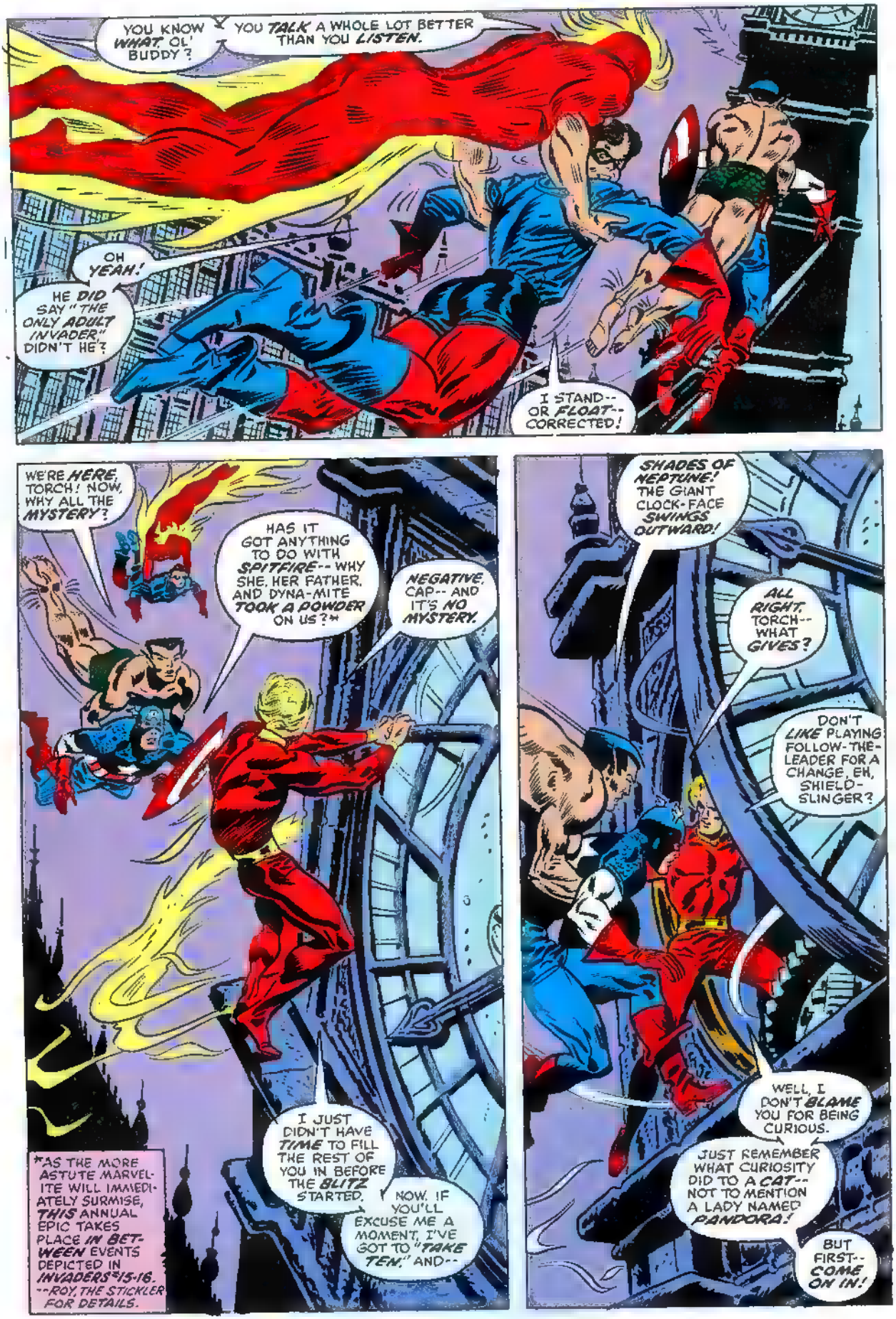
COMICS
KING-SIZE ANNUAL!
THE GREATEST SUPERHEROES OF WORLD WAR TWO!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ALL NEW!
THE INVADERS
BLOCKBUSTING BATTLE ISSUE!
EXTRA!! WAIT'LL YOU MEET OUR NAZI-SMASHING GUEST STARS!
SCHOMBURG

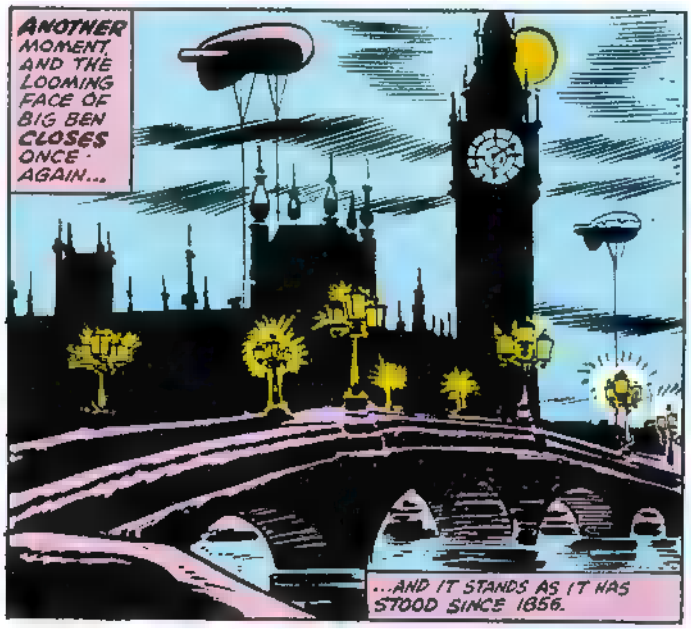
CAPTAIN AMERICA & BUCKY! THE SUB-MARINER! THE ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH & TORO! During the darkest hours of World War Two, these five heroes have banded together ■ THE INVADERS— to battle the Axis Powers to the death, in the name of freedom!

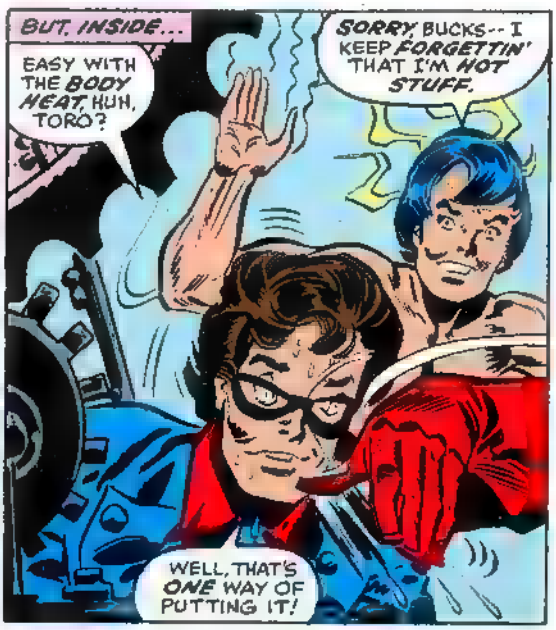
Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INVADERS

"OKAY, AXIS-- HERE WE COME!"
THE INVADERS' FIRST ANNUAL-- AND THEIR MOST OFFBEAT ADVENTURE EVER!
DANGER UNEXPLODED BOMB!
LET'S GO, GUYS!
NOBODY'S GOING TO STOP THIS WAR AND WAIT FOR US!
A MULTI-STAR MILESTONE IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!
ROY THOMAS WRITER / EDITOR
FRANK ROBBINS & FRANK SPRINGER ILLUSTRATORS (CHAPTERS 1 & 5)
SAM KATO COLORIST
DARN NEAR EVERYBODY! LETTERERS
ARCHIE GOODWIN, CONSULTING EDITOR

AS THE COLORFUL QUINTET RUSH THRU THE LONDON STREETS, HOT ON THE HEELS OF THE NIGHTLY NAZI BLITZ, THEY DO NOT GO UNNOTICED...
...EITHER BY THE HOME GUARD...
...OR THE STALWART DEFENDING TROOPS...
...OR EVEN BY THE SMALL ONES WHO ARE THE SADDEST VICTIMS OF ANY WAR.
SHELTER
BUT, TONIGHT, THE INVADERS HAVE NO TIME EVEN FOR THEM...
WELL, THERE IT IS, BUCKY-- DEAD AHEAD!
HOW COULD I MISS IT, CAP?
ONLY ONE LITTLE QUESTION...
HOW IN BLAZES DO WE GET TO THE TOP OF BIG BEN IN A HURRY, TO [redacted] THE TORCH?
NICE POINT! HE FORGOT TO GIVE US A HAND.
HAVE NO FEAR, CAPTAIN AMERICA...
FOR, THE HUMAN TORCH IS NOT THE ONLY ADULT INVADER WHO CAN FLY!
NEVER SAID HE WAS, NAMOR-- AND THANKS!
HEY! WHAT ABOUT YOURS TRULY?

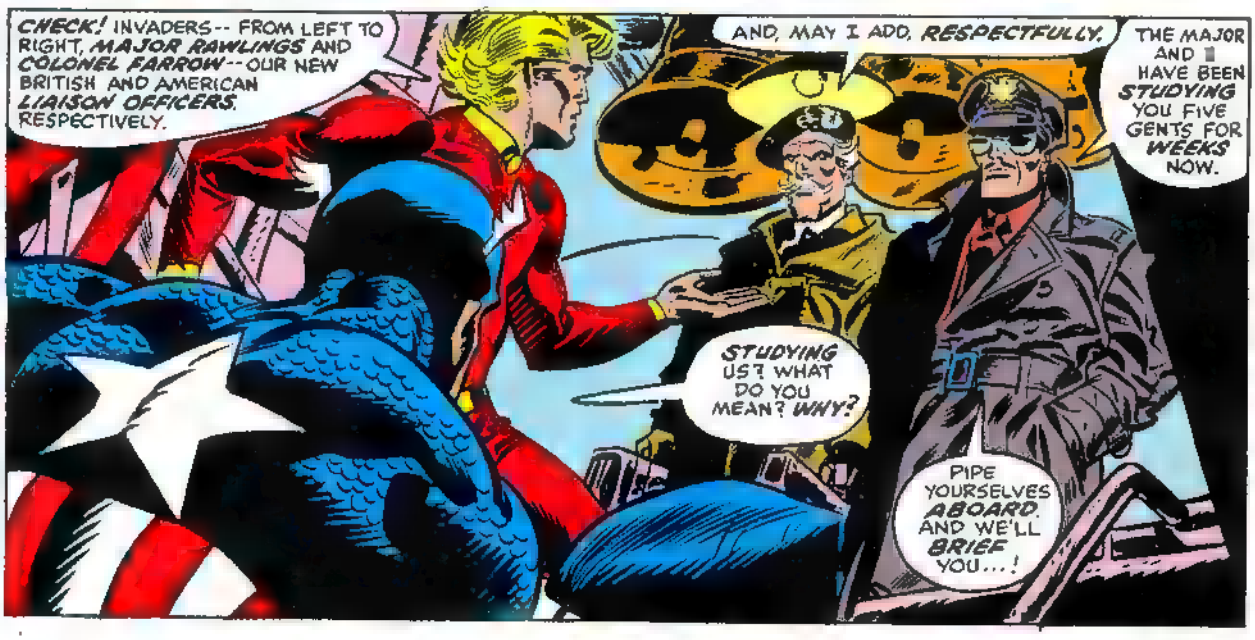

YOU KNOW WHAT, OL' BUDDY?
YOU TALK A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN YOU LISTEN.
OH YEAH!
HE DID SAY "THE ONLY ADULT INVADER" DIDN'T HE?
I STAND-- OR FLOAT-- CORRECTED!
WE'RE HERE, TORCH! NOW, WHY ALL THE MYSTERY?
HAS IT GOT ANYTHING TO DO WITH SPITFIRE-- WHY SHE, HER FATHER, AND DYNA-MITE TOOK A POWDER ON US?*
NEGATIVE, CAP-- AND IT'S NO MYSTERY.
I JUST DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO FILL THE REST OF YOU IN BEFORE THE BLITZ STARTED.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME A MOMENT, I'VE GOT TO "TAKE TEN," AND--
*AS THE MORE ASTUTE MARVELITE WILL IMMEDIATELY SURMISE, THIS ANNUAL EPIC TAKES PLACE IN BETWEEN EVENTS DEPICTED IN INVADERS #15-16. --ROY, THE STICKLER FOR DETAILS.
SHADES OF NEPTUNE! THE GIANT CLOCK-FACE SWINGS OUTWARD!
ALL RIGHT, TORCH-- WHAT GIVES?
DON'T LIKE PLAYING FOLLOW-THE-LEADER FOR A CHANGE, EH, SHIELD-SLINGER?
WELL, I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR BEING CURIOUS.
JUST REMEMBER WHAT CURIOSITY DID TO A CAT-- NOT TO MENTION A LADY NAMED PANDORA!
BUT FIRST-- COME ON IN!

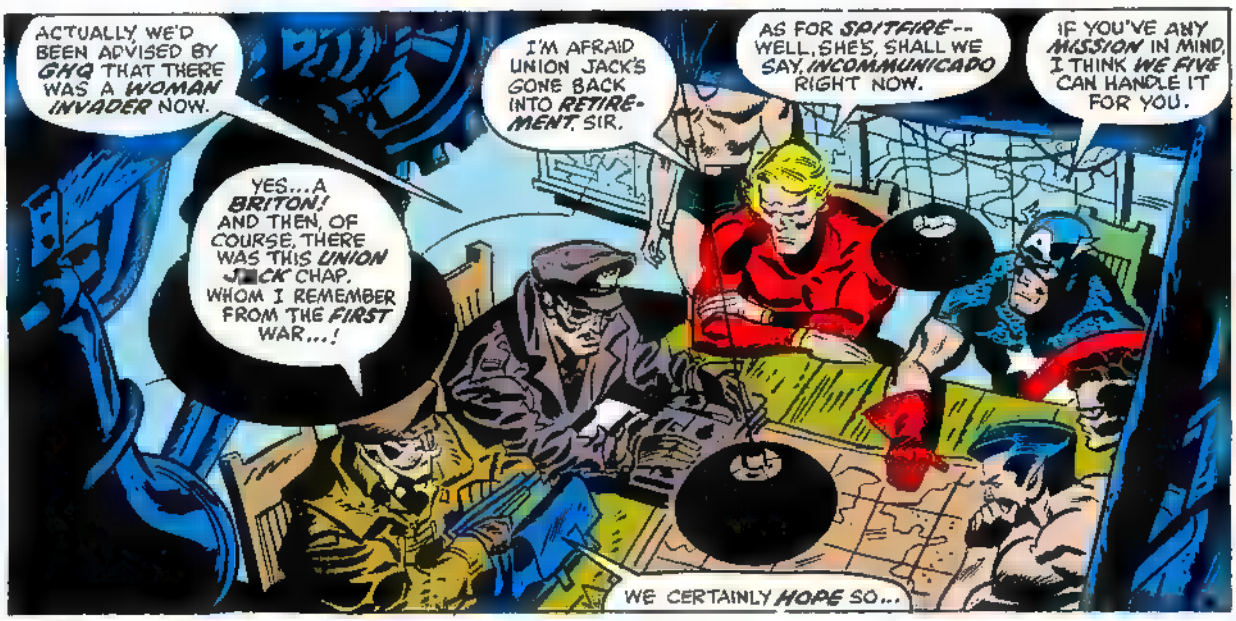

ANOTHER MOMENT, AND THE LOOMING FACE OF BIG BEN CLOSES ONCE AGAIN...
...AND IT STANDS AS IT HAS STOOD SINCE 1856.

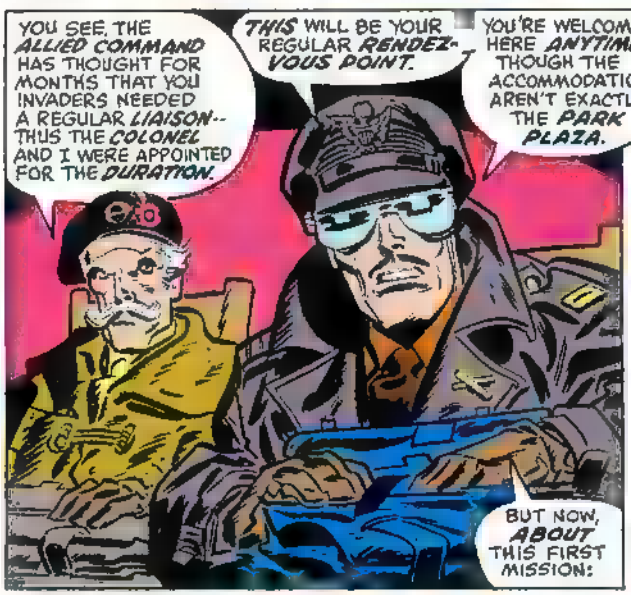

BUT, INSIDE...
EASY WITH THE BODY HEAT, HUH, TORO?
SORRY BUCKS-- I KEEP FORGETTIN' THAT I'M NOT STUFF.
WELL, THAT'S ONE WAY OF PUTTING IT!

NO BICKERING, BOYS!
NOW, TORCH--LET'S NEAR IT.
NOTHING SPECIAL! I'M JUST THE GUY THEY CONTACTED, THAT'S ALL.
THEY TOLD ME TO MAKE LIKE TEN O'CLOCK--
--THEN STAND BACK.

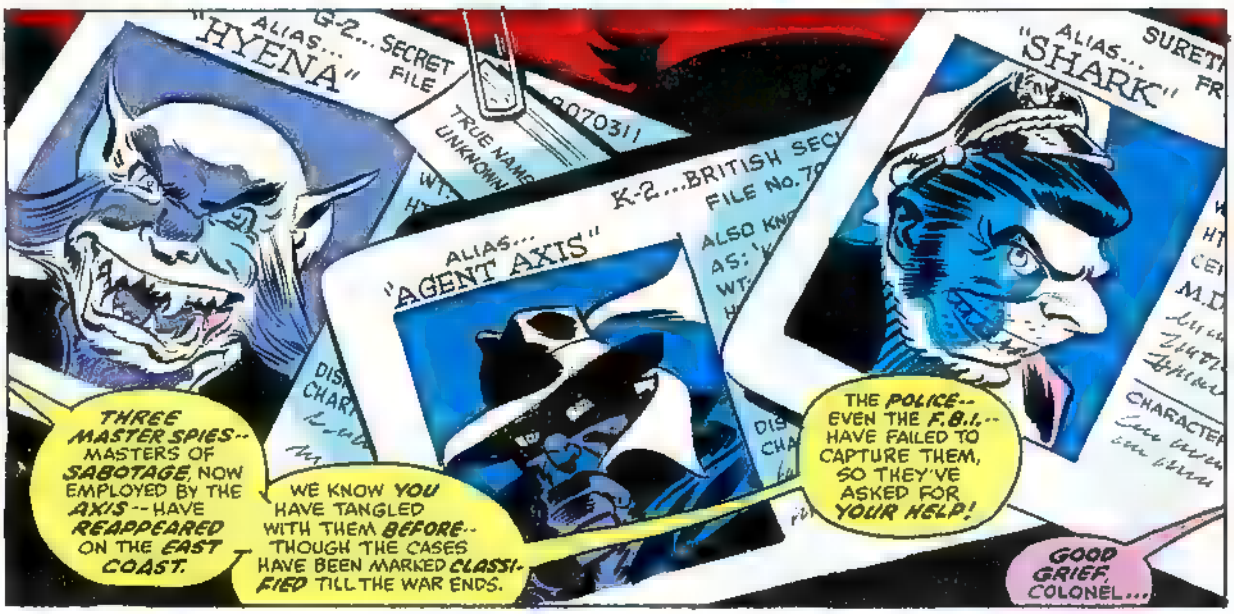
"THEY"? WHO'S "THEY"?
YOU'LL SEE IN A SECOND.
EVENING, SIRS!
YOU'RE PROMPT, TORCH. YOUR UPBRINGING AS A CHILD, I SUPPOSE.
I NEVER WAS A CHILD, MAJOR--YOU KNOW THAT.
JUST TESTING, YOU UNDERSTAND.


CHECK! INVADERS-- FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, MAJOR RAWLINGS AND COLONEL FARROW-- OUR NEW BRITISH AND AMERICAN LIAISON OFFICERS, RESPECTIVELY.
AND, MAY I ADD, RESPECTFULLY,
THE MAJOR AND I HAVE BEEN STUDYING YOU FIVE GENTS FOR WEEKS NOW.
STUDYING US? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHY?
PIPE YOURSELVES ABOARD, AND WE'LL BRIEF YOU...!

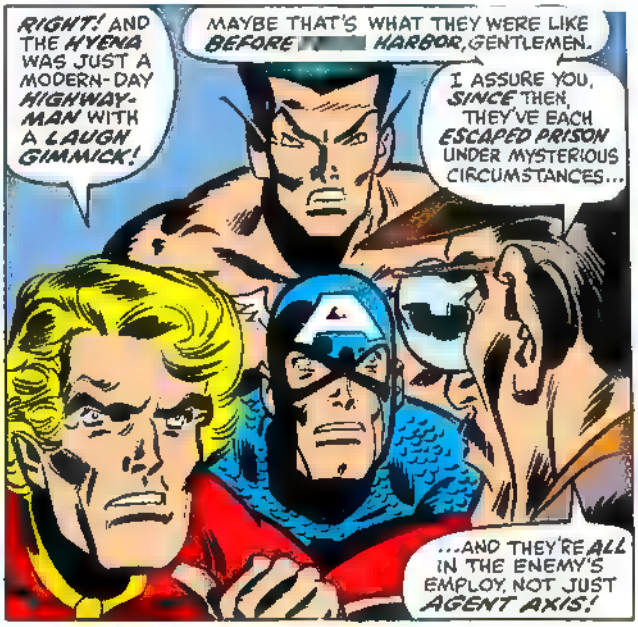

ACTUALLY, WE'D BEEN ADVISED BY G-H-Q THAT THERE WAS A WOMAN INVADER NOW.
I'M AFRAID UNION JACK'S GONE BACK INTO RETIREMENT, SIR.
AS FOR SPITFIRE-- WELL, SHE'S, SHALL WE SAY, INCOMMUNICADO RIGHT NOW.
IF YOU'VE ANY MISSION IN MIND, I THINK WE FIVE CAN HANDLE IT FOR YOU.
YES... A BRITON! AND THEN, OF COURSE, THERE WAS THIS UNION JACK CHAP, WHOM I REMEMBER FROM THE FIRST WAR...!
WE CERTAINLY HOPE SO...

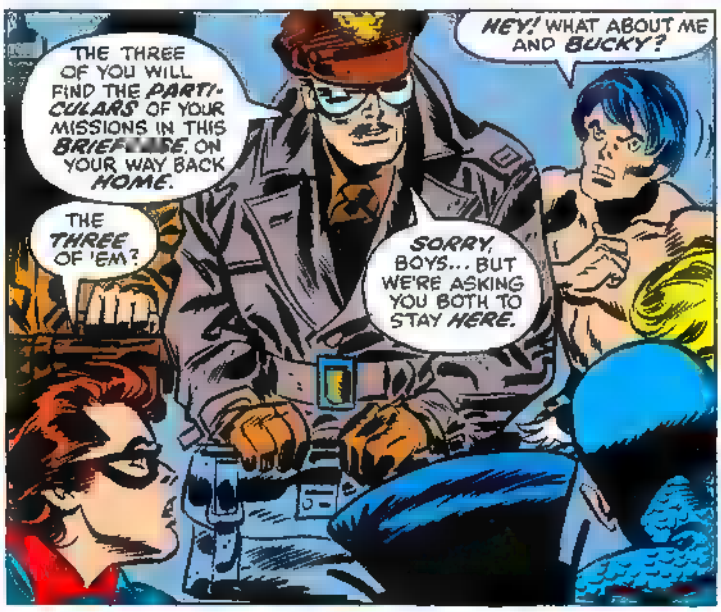

YOU SEE, THE ALLIED COMMAND HAS THOUGHT FOR MONTHS THAT YOU INVADERS NEEDED A REGULAR LIAISON-- THUS THE COLONEL AND I WERE APPOINTED FOR THE DURATION.
THIS WILL BE YOUR REGULAR RENDEZ-VOUS POINT.
YOU'RE WELCOME HERE ANYTIME.. THOUGH THE ACCOMMODATIONS AREN'T EXACTLY THE PARK PLAZA.
BUT NOW, ABOUT THIS FIRST MISSION:

STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM, IT'S ONE THAT WILL SEND YOU BACK STATESIDE.
HOT DOG! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GET BACK THERE!
TOP SECRET
I'M SURE HE'S NOT SENDING US ON A HOLIDAY, LAD.
NOT EXACTLY!

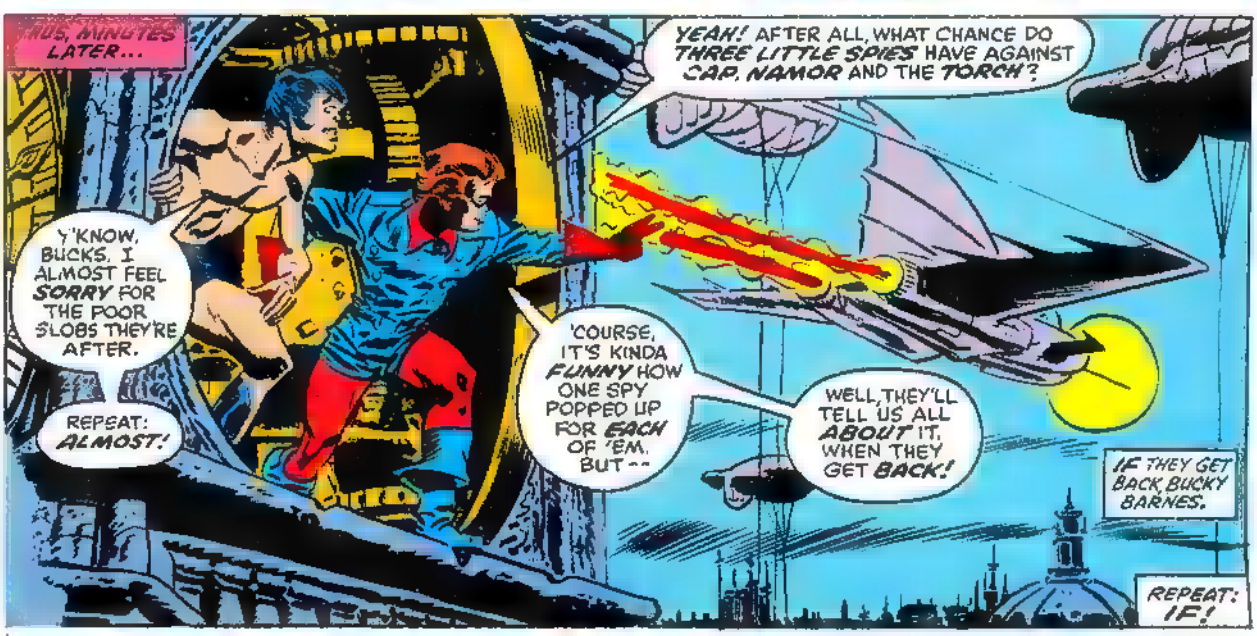

G-2... SECRET FILE
ALIAS... "HYENA"
TRUE NAME UNKNOWN
K-2...BRITISH SEC... FILE No. 7...
ALIAS... "AGENT AXIS"
ALIAS... "SHARK"
THREE MASTER SPIES-- MASTERS OF SABOTAGE, NOW EMPLOYED BY THE AXIS -- HAVE REAPPEARED ON THE EAST COAST.
WE KNOW YOU HAVE TANGLED WITH THEM BEFORE-- THOUGH THE CASES HAVE BEEN MARKED CLASSIFIED TILL THE WAR ENDS.
THE POLICE-- EVEN THE F.B.I.-- HAVE FAILED TO CAPTURE THEM, SO THEY'VE ASKED FOR YOUR HELP!
GOOD GRIEF, COLONEL...

SURE, WE KNOW THESE CLOWNS; BUT WE PUT THEM AWAY, MONTHS AGO! *
I POLISHED OFF AGENT AXIS SO FAST, EVEN THE COMIC-BOOKS DIDN'T GET THE STORY.
BUT, THE SO-CALLED SHARK WAS ONLY A SMALLTIME SMUGGLER... NOT A SPY.
*SEE OUR TEXT PAGE FOR DETAILS. --ROY.


RIGHT! AND THE HYENA WAS JUST A MODERN-DAY HIGHWAY-MAN WITH A LAUGH GIMMICK!
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE LIKE BEFORE [redacted] HARBOR, GENTLEMEN.
I ASSURE YOU, SINCE THEN, THEY'VE EACH ESCAPED PRISON UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES...
...AND THEY'RE ALL IN THE ENEMY'S EMPLOY, NOT JUST AGENT AXIS!


HEY! WHAT ABOUT ME AND BUCKY?
THE THREE OF YOU WILL FIND THE PARTICULARS OF YOUR MISSIONS IN THIS BRIEFCASE, ON YOUR WAY BACK HOME.
THE THREE OF 'EM?
SORRY, BOYS... BUT WE'RE ASKING YOU BOTH TO STAY HERE.

GOOD FOR THE OLD MORALE, DON'T YOU KNOW.
YES. WE NEED SOMEONE HERE TO RETAIN, SHALL WE SAY, AN INVADERS PRESENCE.
WELL... LONG AS YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, HOW CAN WE TURN YOU DOWN?
MAYBE WE'LL MAKE IT NEXT TRIP, HOTROD.

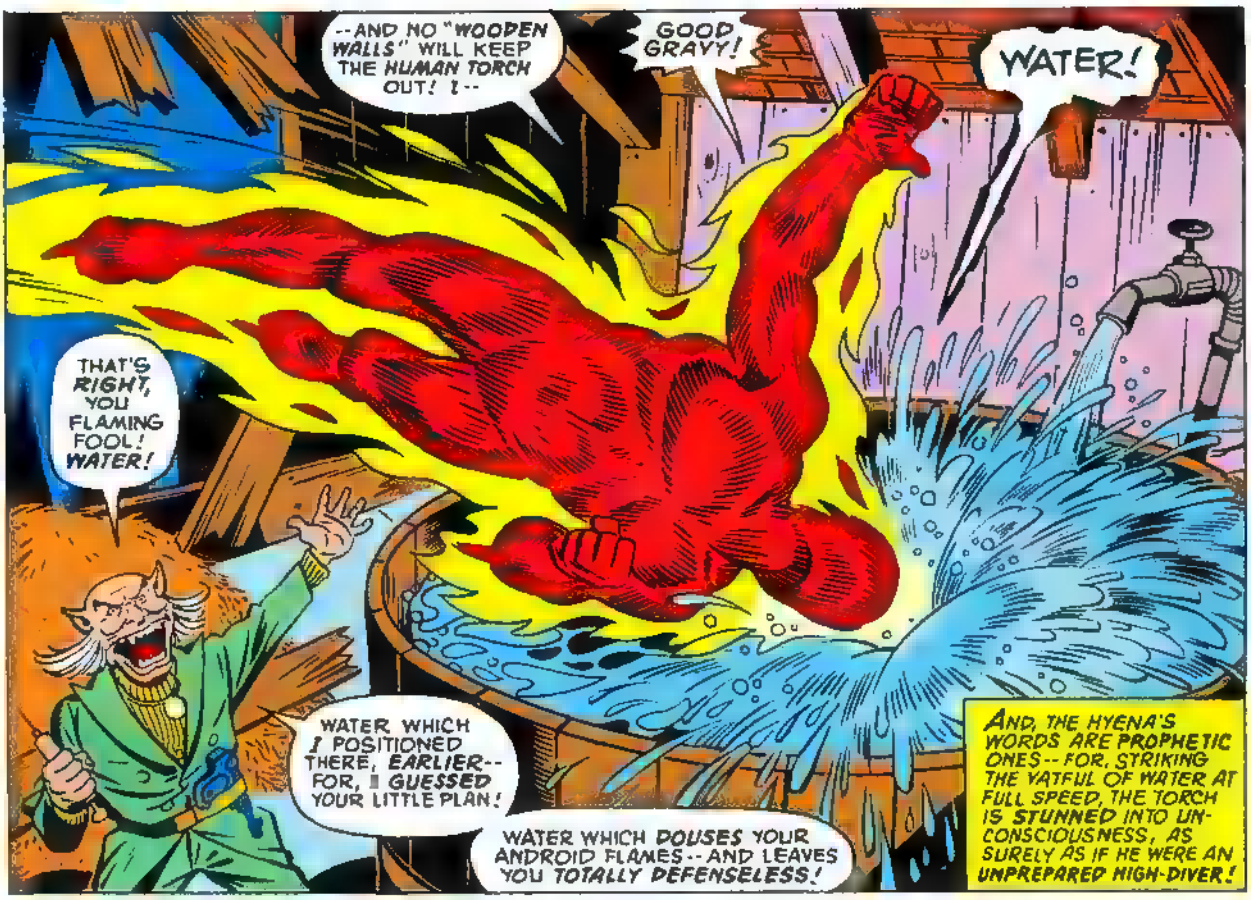

TWO MINUTES LATER...
YEAH! AFTER ALL, WHAT CHANCE DO THREE LITTLE SPIES HAVE AGAINST CAP, NAMOR AND THE TORCH?
Y'KNOW, BUCKS, I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR THE POOR SLOBS THEY'RE AFTER.
REPEAT: ALMOST!
'COURSE, IT'S KINDA FUNNY HOW ONE SPY POPPED UP FOR EACH OF 'EM, BUT--
WELL, THEY'LL TELL US ALL ABOUT IT, WHEN THEY GET BACK!
IF THEY GET BACK, BUCKY BARNES.
REPEAT: IF!

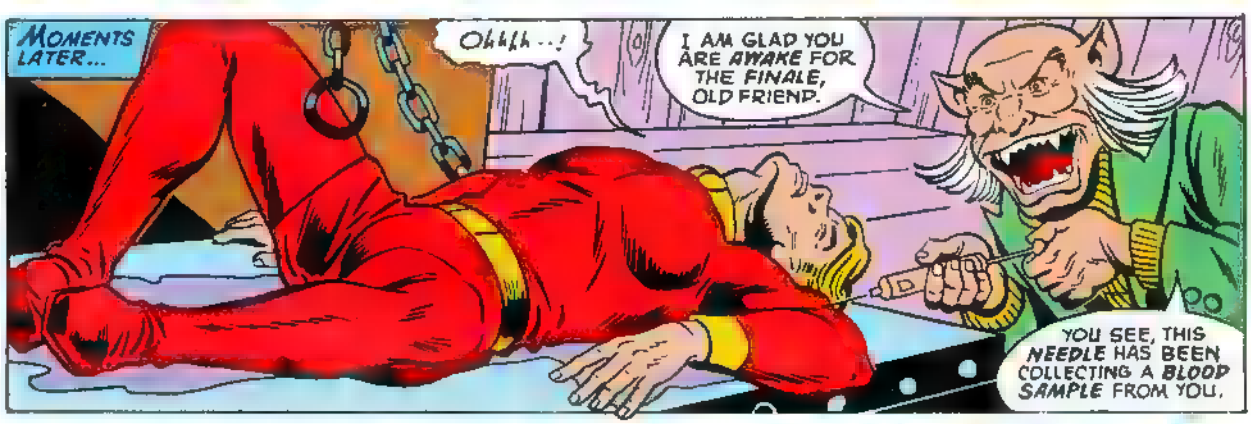
OHH! WHO IN THE WORLD--?
SORRY, NURSE. DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU.
Y-YOU'RE THE HUMAN TORCH, AREN'T YOU?
WELL NOW! THOSE COMIC-BOOKS ABOUT ME MUST BE MAKING ME A HOUSE-HOLD WORD.
STILL, I DON'T ALWAYS LOOK LIKE A WALKING, TALKING ROMAN CANDLE...
...AND AT LEAST I DIDN'T BURN MY WAY IN, LIKE THEY HAVE ME DO THE FUNNY PAGES.
NOW, COULD YOU DIRECT TO MAJOR WILLIAMS?
SEE? LOOK, MA... NO FLAMES!
CERTAINLY...!
...GLAD YOU'RE HERE, TORCH!
LORD, BUT YOU MADE FROM ENGLAND!
YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT, MAJOR.
ONLY THING IS, I DON'T KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT WHY I'M HERE...
...EXCEPT IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH A THUG-TURNED-SPY CALLED THE HYENA!
TH-THE HYENA!? WHERE...?
PVT. PIERCE IS WELL ENOUGH TO FILL YOU IN HIMSELF, TORCH...
YES... I-I REMEMBER NOW... IT WAS THE HYENA!
DON'T PUSH IT TOO HARD, SOLDIER. JUST RELAX... AND TELL ME WHAT YOU CAN.
I... I WAS ON DELIVERY DETAIL... RIGHT ABOUT DUSK...
"MY BUDDY AND I WERE DRIVING A TRUCK FULL OF MILITARY SUPPLIES -- IMPORTANT STUFF -- FROM ONE BASE TO ANOTHER...
TOO BAD WE HAD TO MISS THE MOVIE TONIGHT, huh, PETE?
YOU KIDDING? I SAW IT THE LAST FIVE TIMES IT HIT THE BASE!
107

HEY! ISN'T THAT KIND OF A SHARP CURVE AHEAD?
YEAH! FUNNY... IT SEEMS SHARPER THAN I REMEMBER IT.
MY IMAGINATION MUST BE--
HOLY COW! WHAT--?
MY GOD! THE ROAD--IT JUST DISAPPEARS INTO NOWHERE!
NOT INTO NOWHERE--
--BUT OFF A CLIFF!
AAAAAA
"JOE AND ME, WE WERE [redacted] CLEAR--BUT HE BROKE HIS BACK AGAINST A TREE, THEY TELL ME.
"I LIVED THRU IT, SOMEHOW--BLACKED OUT A MINUTE...
"AND, WHEN I WOKE UP...
THAT'S RIGHT, FOOL! LOOK AT ME! I'M LETTING YOU LIVE--
--SO THAT YOU CAN TELL AMERICA--AND ESPECIALLY THE HUMAN TORCH--
--THAT YOU FELL VICTIM TO THE MAD JESTS OF--THE HYENA!
HA HA HA!
HMMM... HE'S AS CORNY AS EVER.
HE'D RE-ROUTED THE ROAD, AND YOU FOLLOWED IT TILL IT WAS TOO LATE TO PUT ON THE BRAKES.
YEAH, BUT--THAT KILLER--WITH HIS SHARP TEETH--THAT CRAZY, SCARY SMILE--
HE KILLED JOE--AND HE THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY!
G-GET HIM, TORCH--FOR ME!
TIME FOR YOUR SHOT, PRIVATE.
WELL, TORCH? NEED TO KNOW ANY MORE?
NOTHING YOU CAN TELL ME, I'M AFRAID, MAJOR.
I'LL START SEARCHING FOR THE HYENA TOMORROW! NO HURRY; HE WON'T STRIKE AGAIN TONIGHT, SURELY.
I HOPE NOT.
THERE ARE SOME INVALUABLE MEDICAL SUPPLIES ON THEIR WAY RIGHT NOW TO THIS VERY HOSPITAL!

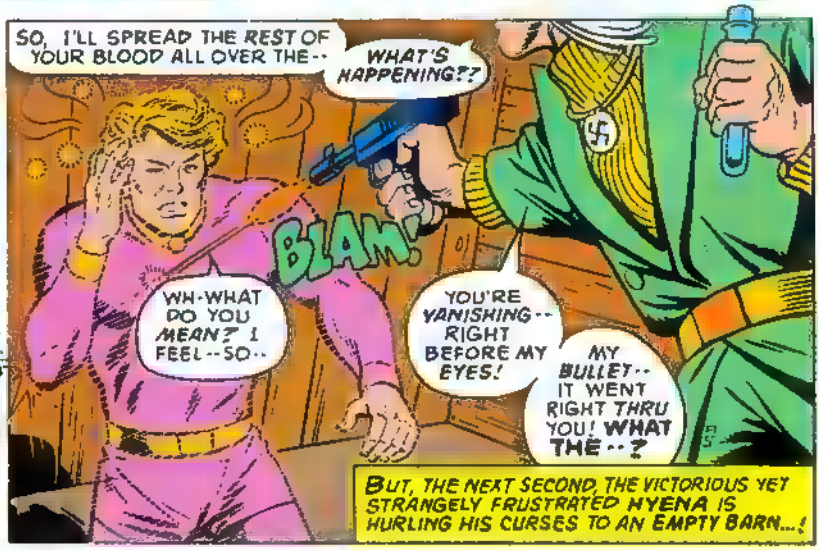
SOON AFTERWARD, ONE OF THE HOSPITAL GUARDS GOES OFF-DUTY, AND TO THE NEAREST BAR...
...YEAH, THE HUMAN TORCH'LL GET THAT GRINNING BUZZARD, SURE AS SHOOTIN'!
HEY, SAL! BRING THEM MICKEY FINNS OVER HERE!
COMING, SOLDIER.
HYENA!
I JUST GOT THE WORD FROM A LOOSE-LIPPED DOGFACE!
THE TORCH IS HERE, ALL RIGHT-- AND HE'S GONE TO BED FOR THE NIGHT!
THEN IT'S TIME FOR THE HYENA TO STRIKE AGAIN!
VERBOTEN
HAH! AND TO THINK THAT, ONLY MONTHS AGO, I WAS MERELY A CHEAP CROOK!
THE AXIS PAYS MUCH BETTER!
LATER THAT SAME NIGHT, ANOTHER ARMY TRUCK IS RUMBLING ALONG THE UNPAVED BACK [redacted] OF UPSTATE NEW YORK.
DANGER FALLING ROCK
IF IT DOES NOT REACH ITS DESTINATION... MEN WILL DIE!
AND THE HYENA MEANS TO SEE THAT IT DOES NOT!
ALL RIGHT, MEN!
LET'S ROCK THEM TO SLEEP-- FOREVER!
HA HA HA
AN AMBUSH, TORCH-- JUST LIKE YOU SAID THERE MIGHT BE!
BUT--THOSE BOULDERS--!
I'LL HANDLE THEM, FRIEND!
THAT'S WHY I HAD A "LOOSE-LIPPED SOLDIER" SPREAD THE STORY I WAS OFF TO DREAMLAND FOR THE NIGHT.
I FIGURED WHEN THAT GOT BACK TO THE HYENA, HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RESIST TRYING TO MAKE ME LOOK BAD--

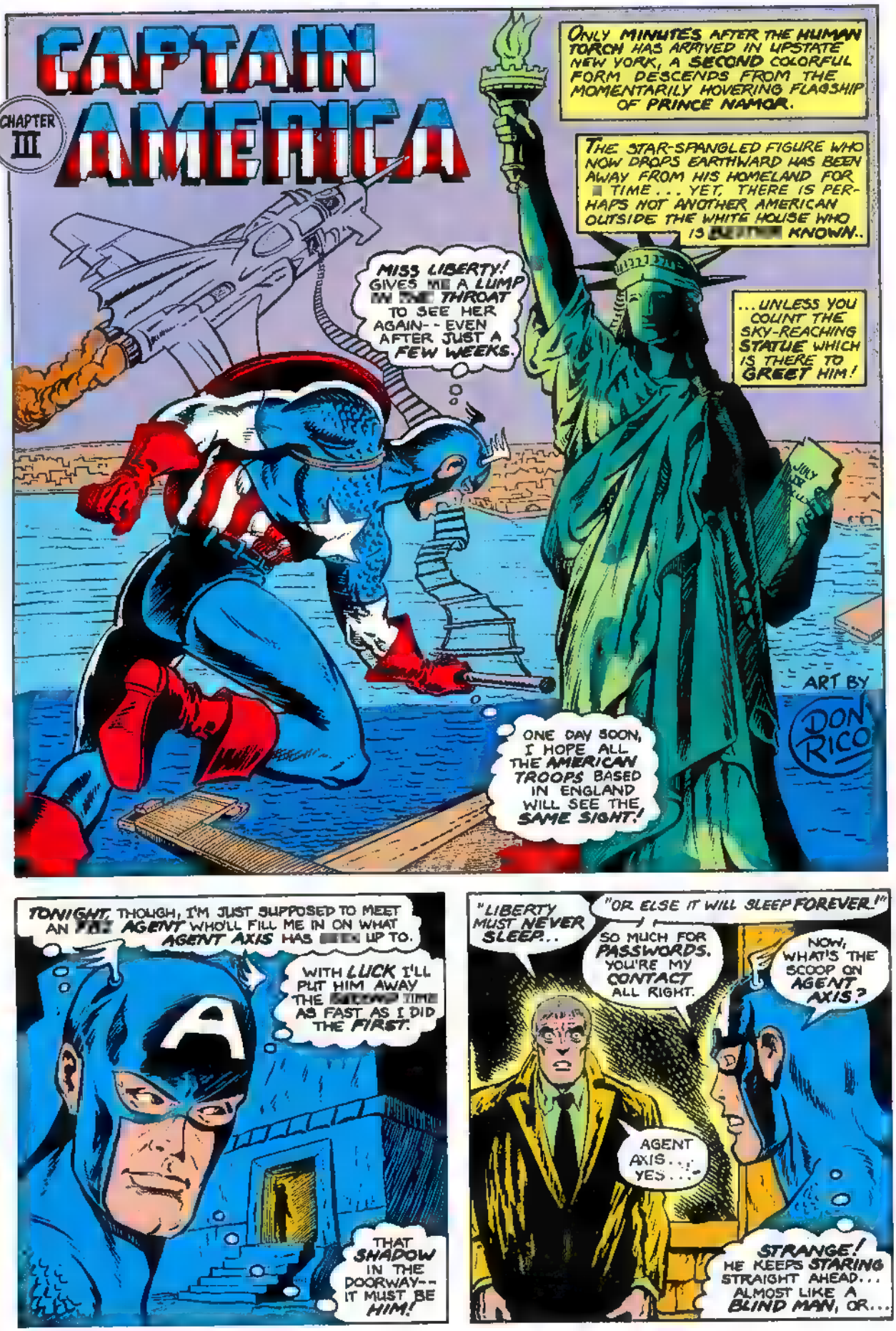
— SO I FLEW TO ANOTHER BASE, AND HITCHED A RIDE BACK.
SEE? I TOLD YOU MY FLAMES WOULD TAKE CARE OF THESE ROCKS.
THEY MAY BE A WARM RAIN WHEN THEY HIT YOUR TRUCK-- BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT!
NOW, YOU KEEP ROLLING ALONG-- 'CAUSE IT'S TIME FOR THE PAY-OFF!
I SEE THE HYENA AND A BUNCH OF HIS BUNDIST-TYPE BUDDIES UP THERE--
--AND I'VE BEEN WANTING TO PAY MY RESPECTS!
UGFF
FACE IT, FOUL-UPS! YOU'RE THROUGH--
RATTA
RATTA
--UNLESS YOU'VE GOT A KING-SIZE FIRE EXTINGUISHER UP YOUR SWASTIKAS!
DAMN YOU, TORCH! I NEVER DREAMED--!
YOU WILL, SMILEY-- AFTER I LAY HANDS ON YOU!
LIKE A CORNERED RAT, THE TORCH'S CRAVEN ARCH-FOE RUNS INTO A NEARBY BARN...
...SLAMMING THE FRAIL WOODEN DOOR BEHIND HIM.
YOU'RE SLIPPING, SCAVENGER!
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW BY NOW THAT YOU'RE NOT ANCIENT ATHENS--


--AND NO "WOODEN WALLS" WILL KEEP THE HUMAN TORCH OUT! !--
GOOD GRAVY!
WATER!
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU FLAMING FOOL! WATER!
WATER WHICH I POSITIONED THERE, EARLIER-- FOR, I GUESSED YOUR LITTLE PLAN!
WATER WHICH DOUSES YOUR ANDROID FLAMES--AND LEAVES YOU TOTALLY DEFENSELESS!
AND, THE HYENA'S WORDS ARE PROPHETIC ONES-- FOR, STRIKING THE VATFUL OF WATER AT FULL SPEED, THE TORCH IS STUNNED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS, AS SURELY AS IF HE WERE AN UNPREPARED HIGH-DIVER!


MOMENTS LATER...
Ohhh..!
I AM GLAD YOU ARE AWAKE FOR THE FINALE, OLD FRIEND.
YOU SEE, THIS NEEDLE HAS BEEN COLLECTING A BLOOD SAMPLE FROM YOU.

THE FÜHRER IS AWARE OF HOW YOUR SYNTHETIC BLOOD TURNED A YOUNG BRITISH WOMAN INTO A SPEEDING SUPER-HEROINE...
...AND HE WANTS THAT ABILITY DUPLICATED-- MANY TIMES OVER-- FOR THE THIRD REICH!
BUT NOW, I DON'T NEED YOU ANY LONGER...


SO, I'LL SPREAD THE REST OF YOUR BLOOD ALL OVER THE--
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
BLAM!
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I FEEL--SO--
YOU'RE VANISHING-- RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!
MY BULLET-- IT WENT RIGHT THRU YOU! WHAT THE--?
BUT, THE NEXT SECOND, THE VICTORIOUS YET STRANGELY FRUSTRATED HYENA IS HURLING HIS CURSES TO AN EMPTY BARN...!

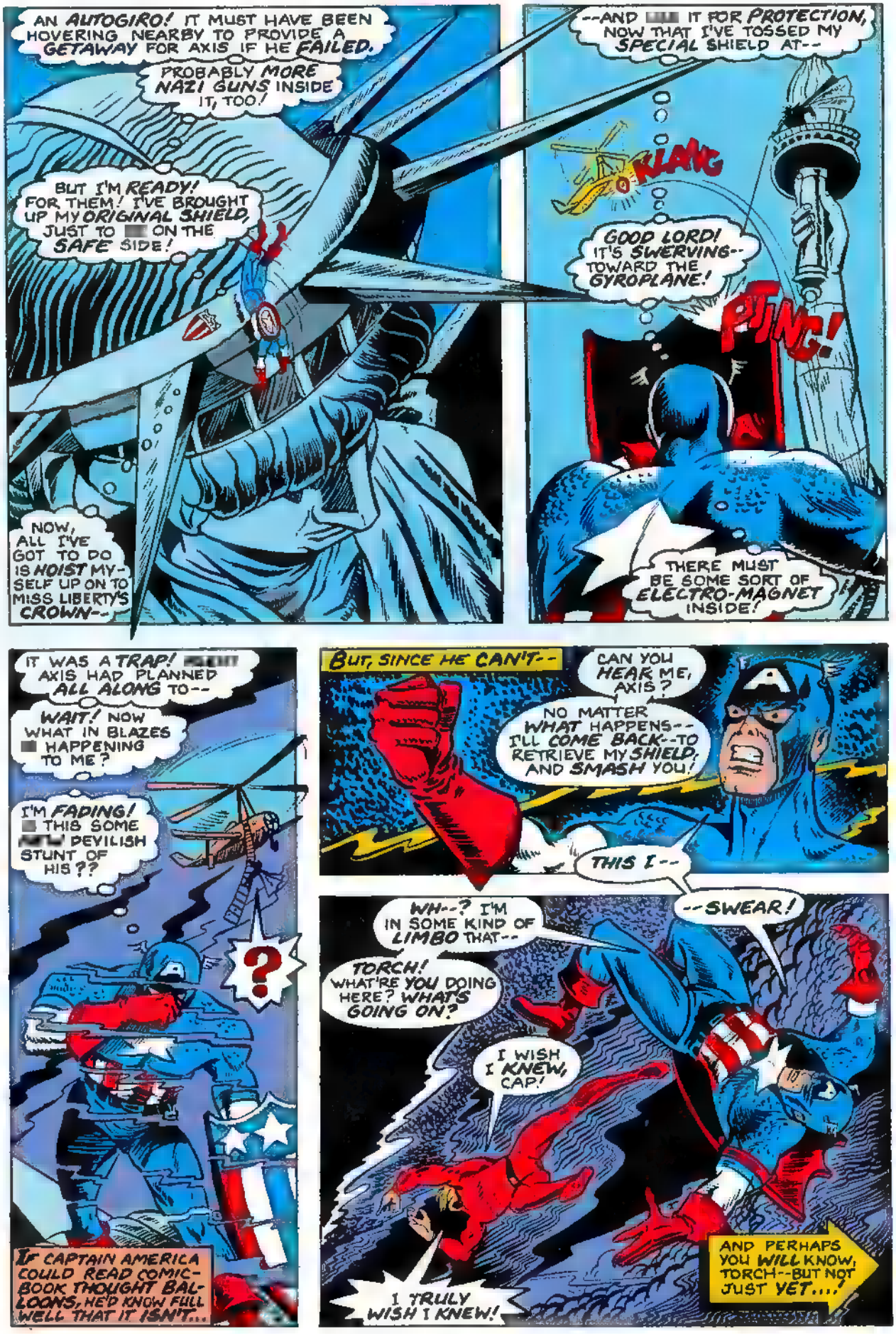

CAPTAIN AMERICA
CHAPTER III
ONLY MINUTES AFTER THE HUMAN TORCH HAS ARRIVED IN UPSTATE NEW YORK, A SECOND COLORFUL FORM DESCENDS FROM THE MOMENTARILY HOVERING FLAGSHIP OF PRINCE NAMOR.
THE STAR-SPANGLED FIGURE WHO NOW DROPS EARTHWARD HAS BEEN AWAY FROM HIS HOMELAND FOR [redacted] TIME . . . YET, THERE IS PERHAPS NOT ANOTHER AMERICAN OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE WHO IS [redacted] KNOWN..
MISS LIBERTY! GIVES ME A LUMP IN MY THROAT TO SEE HER AGAIN--EVEN AFTER JUST A FEW WEEKS.
...UNLESS YOU COUNT THE SKY-REACHING STATUE WHICH IS THERE TO GREET HIM!
ART BY DON RICO
ONE DAY SOON, I HOPE ALL THE AMERICAN TROOPS BASED IN ENGLAND WILL SEE THE SAME SIGHT!
TONIGHT, THOUGH, I'M JUST SUPPOSED TO MEET AN FBI AGENT WHO'LL FILL ME IN ON WHAT AGENT AXIS HAS [redacted] UP TO.
WITH LUCK I'LL PUT HIM AWAY THE [redacted] AS FAST AS I DID THE FIRST.
THAT SHADOW IN THE DOORWAY--IT MUST BE HIM!
"LIBERTY MUST NEVER SLEEP..
"OR ELSE IT WILL SLEEP FOREVER!"
SO MUCH FOR PASSWORDS. YOU'RE MY CONTACT ALL RIGHT.
NOW, WHAT'S THE SCOOP ON AGENT AXIS?
AGENT AXIS... YES...
STRANGE! HE KEEPS STARING STRAIGHT AHEAD... ALMOST LIKE A BLIND MAN, OR...

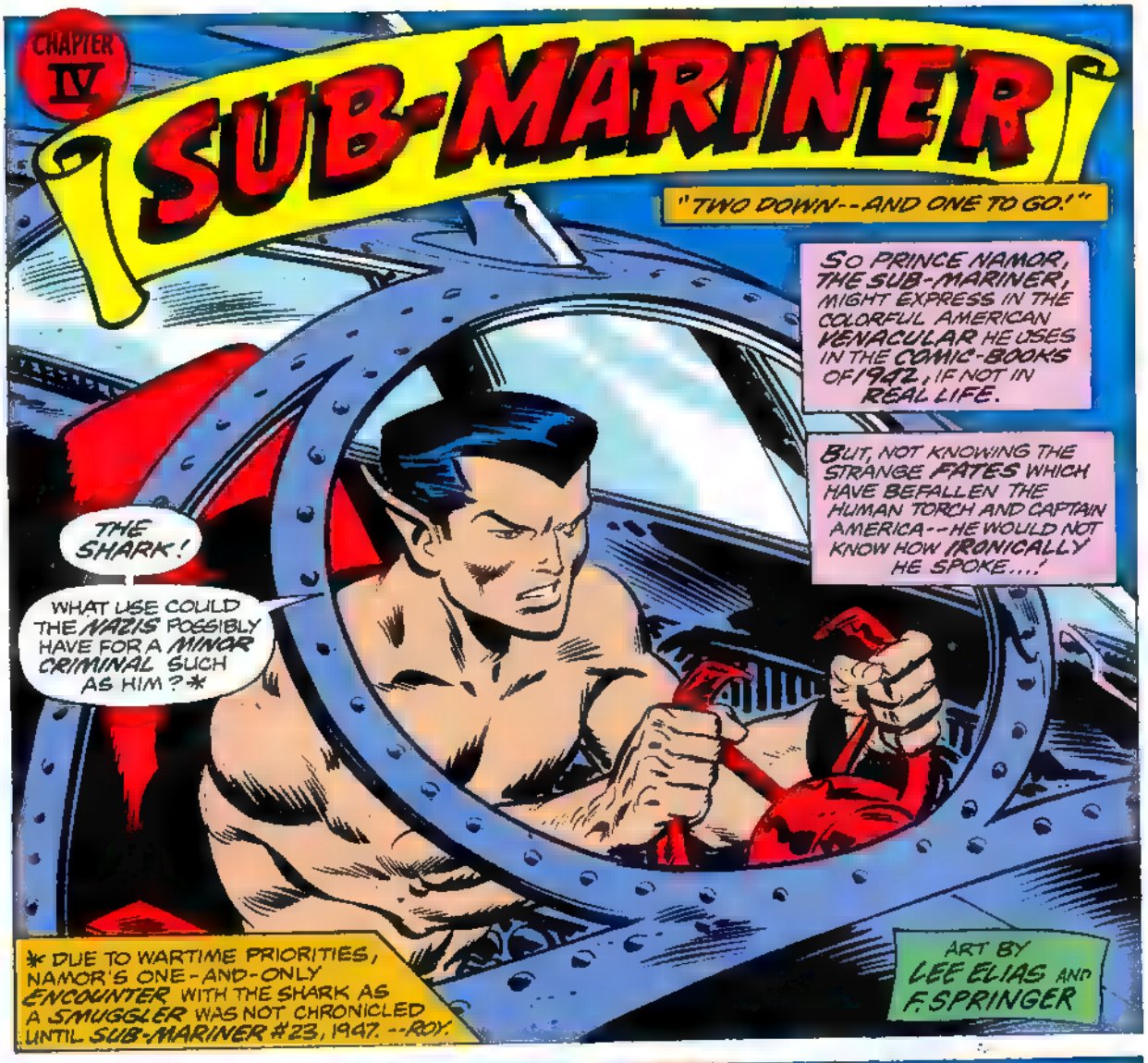
I HAVE NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS, CAPTAIN AMERICA, SO LISTEN CAREFULLY...
AGENT [redacted], WHOM YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED [redacted] TO COMBAT, IS THE ONLY ENEMY OPERATIVE WHO IS IN THE EMPLOY NOT OF ONE AXIS POWER..., BUT OF ALL THREE!
I KNOW THAT... THOUGH I [redacted] GOT A CHANCE TO LEARN WHY.
IT IS [redacted] HE WAS ORIGINALLY NOT ONE MAN AT ALL... BUT THREE!
THE STORY OF AGENT AXIS BEGINS NEARLY A YEAR AGO, ON AN AIRPLANE BOUND FOR A TOP-SECRET CONFERENCE SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE...
THE THREE MEN--ONE GERMAN, ONE ITALIAN AND ONE [redacted] FLYING TO CONFER PERSONALLY WITH HITLER AND MUSSOLINI. AS THEY DID SO, EACH OF THEM WAS [redacted] GREATEST EXPLO[redacted] TO THE OTHER...TRYING TO PROVE THAT HE, AND HE ALONE, WAS THE FOREMOST AGENT OF ANY FASCIST LAND.
BA-BOOM!
EUROPEAN THEATER OF WAR
ALLIES TOP SECRETS
"SUDDENLY, THE JAGGED HAND OF FATE INTERVENED.
"THE PLANE WAS STRUCK BY A THUNDERBOLT--
"--AND SPIRALED DOWN-WARD!
"STRANGELY, ONE MAN STAGGERED FROM THE FLAMING WRECKAGE--BUT, IT WAS NEITHER THE GERMAN, [redacted] JAPANESE, NOR THE ITALIAN!
"IT WAS [redacted] BEING--FOR THE LIGHTNING [redacted] SOME-HOW MIRACULOUSLY MERGED THE THREE MEN [redacted] ONE ENTITY!
"HE HAD THE INTELLECT... THE CUNNING... THE CRUELTY... OF ALL THREE MASTER SPIES!

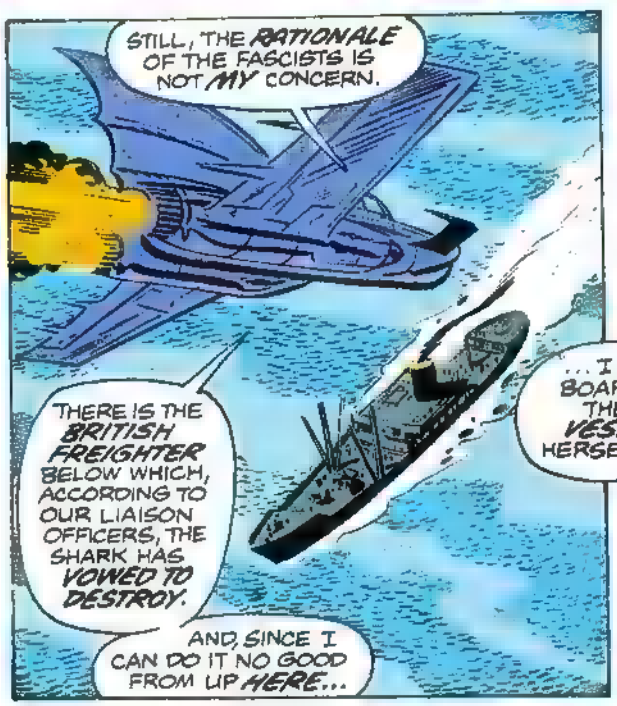
"HIS FACE WAS HORRIBLY ALTERED, TOO, SO THAT HE RESEMBLED NONE OF THEM, NOR ANYTHING -- SO [redacted] COVERED IT FOREVER WITH A FULL MASK TO MATCH [redacted] NIGHT-DARK CLOAK.
"FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, HE HAS BEEN... AGENT AXIS.'
"SINCE THEN, HE HAS CRISS-CROSSED THE WORLD...
"...SERVING FIRST ONE AXIS POWER, THEN ANOTHER!
POISON
"BUT THEN HE ENCOUNTERED YOU, CAPTAIN AMERICA--AND YOU BROUGHT HIM LOW!
"IN MANY WAYS, ADOLF HITLER WAS ALMOST HAPPY WHEN THIS MAN, WHO DID NOT OWE HIM TOTAL ALLEGIANCE, WAS CAPTURED. BUT THEN, RECENTLY--
MEIN FÜHRER--THE SPY CALLED [redacted] AXIS HAS ESCAPED HIS AMERICAN PRISON, AND REQUESTS TO SEE YOU.
THAT INHUMAN FREAK! HE IS INSANE--MAD--
--AND THERE IS NO ROOM FOR MADMEN IN THE THIRD REICH!
JA, MEIN FÜHRER!
SEND HIM AWA-- NO, WAIT!
THE VERY MENTION OF HIM HAS JUST GIVEN ME ONE OF MY STROKES OF GENIUS!
SEND HIM IN!
JA, MEIN FÜHRER!
I HAVE COME TO SERVE YOU FOR A TIME, [redacted] HITLER.
I AM HONORED-- AND I KNOW PRECISELY HOW YOUR TRIPLE NATURE CAN BEST SERVE.
"QUICKLY, HITLER OUTLINED [redacted] BRAINSTORM...
GO NOW, AGENT AXIS--SUCCEED AND YOU SHALL BE RICHLY REWARDED!
I GO TO SERVE.
BEING AS I AM-- I HAVE NO OTHER LIFE!
HAH! IF HE FAILS, [redacted] LEAST I WILL BE RID OF HIM! BUT [redacted] HE SUCCEEDS--
--I SHALL BE FREE OF MY GREATEST ENEMIES--AND THAT SHALL BE BUT THE LEAST OF MY TRIUMPHS!

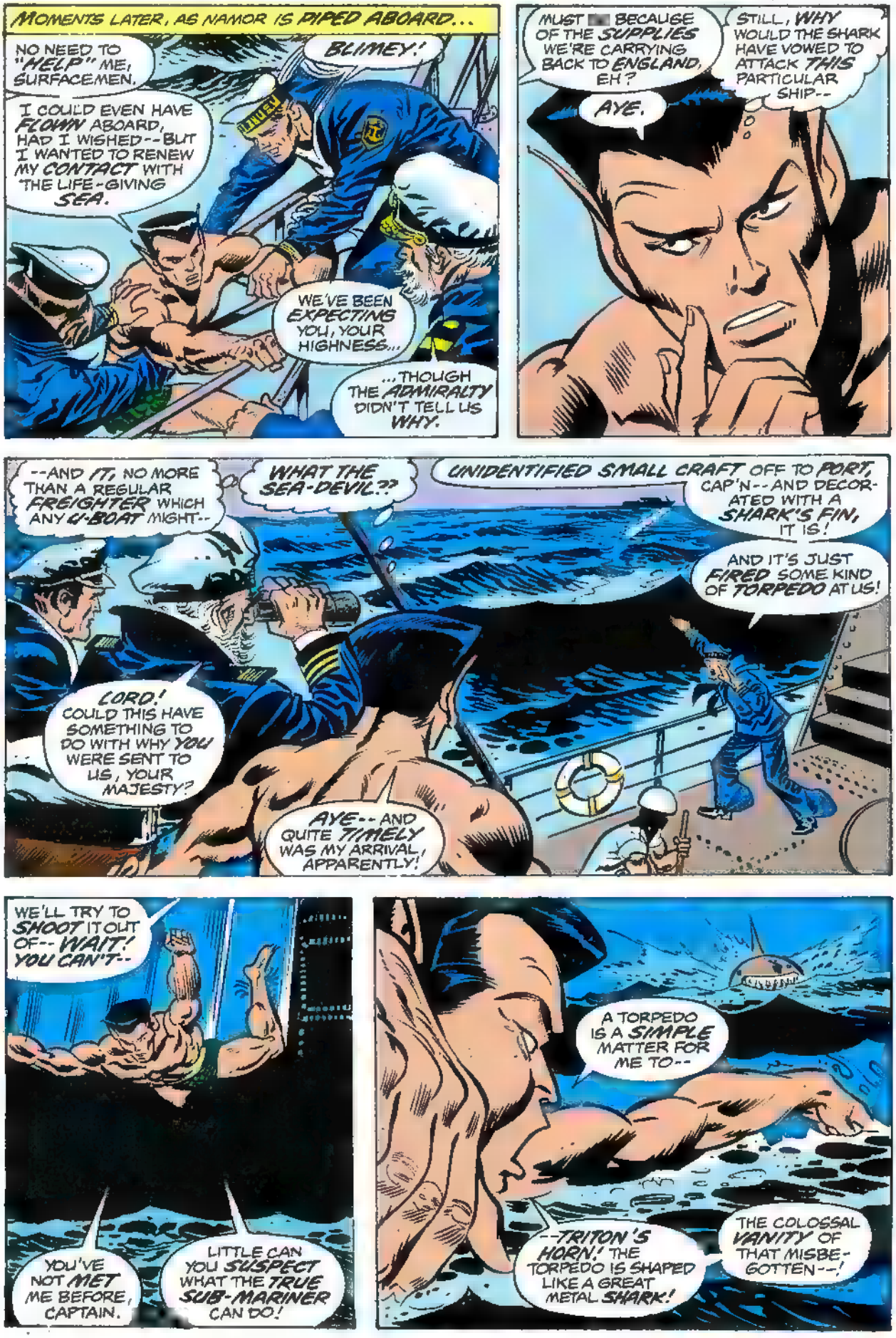
...AND THAT IS HOW AGENT AXIS RETURNED TO THE U.S.!
OKAY. BUT, IF HE'S STILL AT LARGE--
--HOW DOES THE FBI KNOW ALL THIS--INCLUDING WHAT HAPPENED IN BERLIN?
THAT IS SIMPLE, CAPTAIN AMERICA. OBSERVE--!
WHAT--? HE'S COLLAPSING, LIKE--
--LIKE A PUPPET WHOSE STRINGS HAVE BEEN CUT!
WHICH IS JUST WHAT HE WAS--A HUMAN PUPPET, UNDER MY HYPNOTIC CONTROL!
AGENT AXIS! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
THEN THIS WAS A SET-UP! BUT WHY?
THE FÜHRER [illegible] YOUR SHIELD --TO [illegible] IT, AND CREATE HIS OWN WEAPONS OF ITS INDESTRUCTIBLE MATERIAL.
HOW'D YOU GET HOLD OF THAT SHIELD-- THE ONE I FIRST USED?*
I STOLE IT, OF COURSE!
* ONLY IN C.A. #1, 1941. --ROY.
BUT I FEARED, IT HAS NO SPECIAL PROPERTIES LIKE THE OTHER--SO I HAVE [illegible] AUTHORIZED TO TRADE IT, PLUS A SIZABLE AMOUNT OF CURRENCY, FOR--
I THINK YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT YOU AND UNCLE ADOLF CAN DO WITH YOUR OFFER, AXIS!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
INDEED, I DO! THUS, YOU FORCE ME TO--
DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D PLAY SITTING [illegible] FOR YOU?
OUT OF BULLETS! MADONN'!
SO YOU'RE MULTI-LINGUAL NOW, ARE YOU?
KLIK!
ANYWAY, MY SHIELD'S MADE OF A SPECIAL SUBSTANCE YOU'LL NEVER KNOW ABOUT!
--AND IT DOES A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN JUST DEFLECT BULLETS? LIKE SO!
馬鹿
KLANG!
LIKE TWO MASKED JUGGERNAUTS, THEY COME TOGETHER--BUT THE VIBRATIONS OF THE IMPACT RESOUND THROUGH THE LESSER SHIELD, CAUSING THE ENEMY SPY TO LOSE HIS BALANCE--

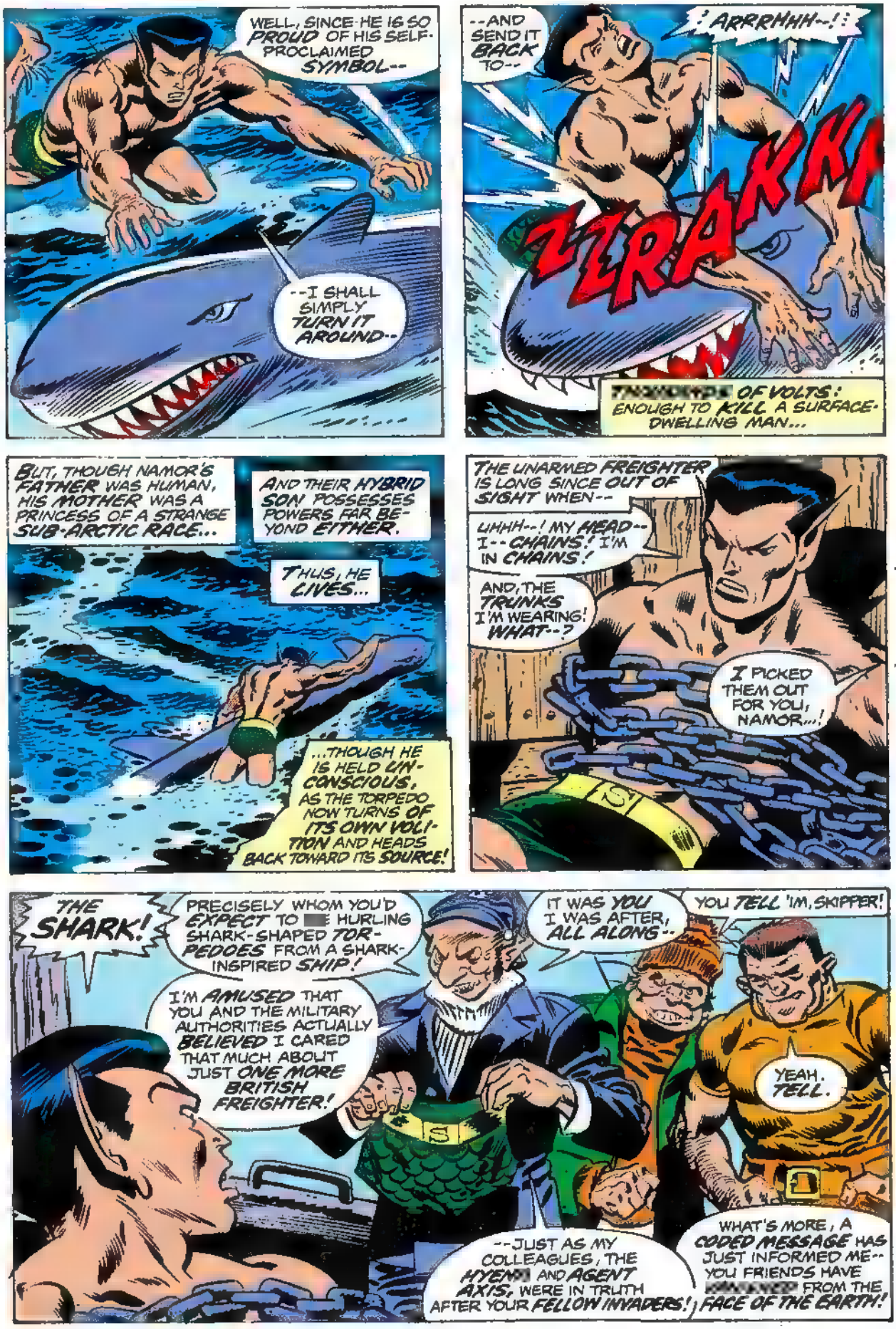
YET, EVEN AS THE HOODED NAZI FALLS--
GOOD LORD! YOUR GRIP--STRONGER THAN I'D IMAGINED--!!
SI, CRETINO!
THAT IS BECAUSE I AM AS STRONG AS ALL THREE OF THE MEN I ONCE WAS--AND THUS, AS POWERFUL EVEN AS YOU!
DIE, SCHWEINHUND!
UNNH
WHAM!
DIO MIO! YOU STILL LIVE!?
APPARENTLY YOU DIDN'T LEARN MUCH MORE ABOUT ME DURING OUR PREVIOUS MEETING THAN I DID ABOUT YOU.
AND I COULD TELL YOU--IN THREE LANGUAGES--
BUT NOW, I INTEND TO FIND OUT!
BUT I CHOOSE TO MAKE MY ESCAPE INSTEAD!
FOLLOW ME-- IF YOU DARE!
TORCH ELEVATOR OUT OF ORDER USE STAIRWAY PLEASE
BETTER TAKE IT SLOW! HE'S HAD TIME TO HAVE A TRAP LAID FOR ME UP THERE!
IN FACT, I'M STARTING TO SMELL A RAT IN THIS WHOLE MISSION...
...RIGHT FROM THE WORD GO!
MOMENTS LATER, AGENT AXIS STANDS DEFIANTLY ATOP THE PROUD AND BECKONING TORCH OF FREEDOM.
HIS LUGER RELOADED, HE LIFTS HIS ARMS HIGH, HIS CLOAK BLOWING IN THE NIGHT WIND.
IN ANSWER, THERE IS A WHIRRING OF MIGHTY BLADES, DRAWING CLOSER BY THE SECOND...


AN AUTOGIRO! IT MUST HAVE BEEN HOVERING NEARBY TO PROVIDE A GETAWAY FOR AXIS IF HE FAILED.
PROBABLY MORE NAZI GUNS INSIDE IT, TOO!
BUT I'M READY! FOR THEM! I'VE BROUGHT UP MY ORIGINAL SHIELD, JUST TO [redacted] ON THE SAFE SIDE!
NOW, ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS HOIST MYSELF UP ON TO MISS LIBERTY'S CROWN--
--AND [redacted] IT FOR PROTECTION, NOW THAT I'VE TOSSED MY SPECIAL SHIELD AT--
KLANG
GOOD LORD! IT'S SWERVING-- TOWARD THE GYROPLANE!
PTING!
THERE MUST BE SOME SORT OF ELECTRO-MAGNET INSIDE!
IT WAS A TRAP! [redacted] AXIS HAD PLANNED ALL ALONG TO--
WAIT! NOW WHAT IN BLAZES [redacted] HAPPENING TO ME?
I'M FADING! [redacted] THIS SOME [redacted] DEVILISH STUNT OF HIS??
?
IF CAPTAIN AMERICA COULD READ COMIC-BOOK THOUGHT BALLOONS, HE'D KNOW FULL WELL THAT IT ISN'T...
BUT, SINCE HE CAN'T--
CAN YOU HEAR ME, AXIS?
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS-- I'LL COME BACK--TO RETRIEVE MY SHIELD, AND SMASH YOU!
THIS I--
--SWEAR!
WH--? I'M IN SOME KIND OF LIMBO THAT--
TORCH! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? WHAT'S GOING ON?
I WISH I KNEW, CAP!
I TRULY WISH I KNEW!
AND PERHAPS YOU WILL KNOW, TORCH--BUT NOT JUST YET....!

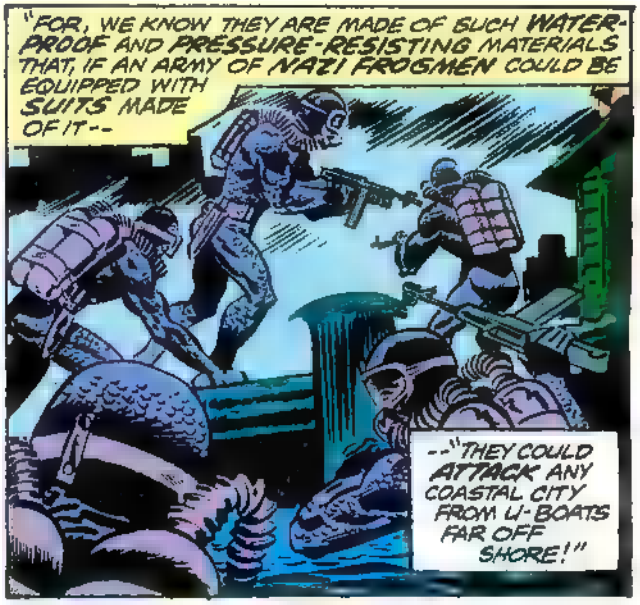

CHAPTER IV
SUB-MARINER
"TWO DOWN--AND ONE TO GO!"
SO PRINCE NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER, MIGHT EXPRESS IN THE COLORFUL AMERICAN VERNACULAR HE USES IN THE COMIC-BOOKS OF 1942, IF NOT IN REAL LIFE.
BUT, NOT KNOWING THE STRANGE FATES WHICH HAVE BEFALLEN THE HUMAN TORCH AND CAPTAIN AMERICA--HE WOULD NOT KNOW HOW IRONICALLY HE SPOKE...!
THE SHARK!
WHAT USE COULD THE NAZIS POSSIBLY HAVE FOR A MINOR CRIMINAL SUCH AS HIM?*
* DUE TO WARTIME PRIORITIES, NAMOR'S ONE-AND-ONLY ENCOUNTER WITH THE SHARK AS A SMUGGLER WAS NOT CHRONICLED UNTIL SUB-MARINER #23, 1947. --ROY.
ART BY LEE ELIAS AND F. SPRINGER

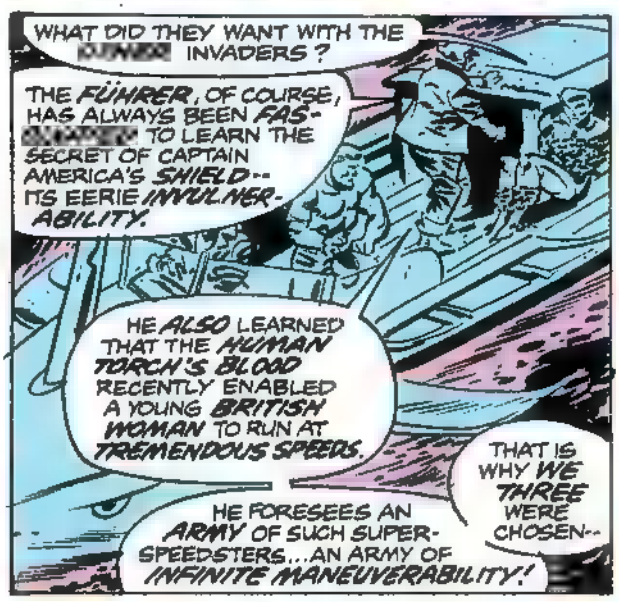

STILL, THE RATIONALE OF THE FASCISTS IS NOT MY CONCERN.
THERE IS THE BRITISH FREIGHTER BELOW WHICH, ACCORDING TO OUR LIAISON OFFICERS, THE SHARK HAS VOWED TO DESTROY.
AND, SINCE I CAN DO IT NO GOOD FROM UP HERE...
...I'LL BOARD THE VESSEL HERSELF.
MY FLAGSHIP WILL HOVER NEARBY, UNTIL I RETURN TO IT.


MOMENTS LATER, AS NAMOR IS PIPED ABOARD...
NO NEED TO "HELP" ME, SURFACEMEN.
BLIMEY!
I COULD EVEN HAVE FLOWN ABOARD, HAD I WISHED--BUT I WANTED TO RENEW MY CONTACT WITH THE LIFE-GIVING SEA.
WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS...
...THOUGH THE ADMIRALTY DIDN'T TELL US WHY.
MUST [redacted] BECAUSE OF THE SUPPLIES WE'RE CARRYING BACK TO ENGLAND, EH?
AYE.
STILL, WHY WOULD THE SHARK HAVE VOWED TO ATTACK THIS PARTICULAR SHIP--
--AND IT, NO MORE THAN A REGULAR FREIGHTER WHICH ANY U-BOAT MIGHT--
WHAT THE SEA-DEVIL??
UNIDENTIFIED SMALL CRAFT OFF TO PORT, CAP'N--AND DECORATED WITH A SHARK'S FIN, IT IS!
AND IT'S JUST FIRED SOME KIND OF TORPEDO AT US!
LORD! COULD THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHY YOU WERE SENT TO US, YOUR MAJESTY?
AYE--AND QUITE TIMELY WAS MY ARRIVAL, APPARENTLY!
WE'LL TRY TO SHOOT IT OUT OF--WAIT! YOU CAN'T--
YOU'VE NOT MET ME BEFORE, CAPTAIN.
LITTLE CAN YOU SUSPECT WHAT THE TRUE SUB-MARINER CAN DO!
A TORPEDO IS A SIMPLE MATTER FOR ME TO--
--TRITON'S HORN! THE TORPEDO IS SHAPED LIKE A GREAT METAL SHARK!
THE COLOSSAL VANITY OF THAT MISBEGOTTEN--!


WELL, SINCE HE IS SO PROUD OF HIS SELF-PROCLAIMED SYMBOL--
--I SHALL SIMPLY TURN IT AROUND--
--AND SEND IT BACK TO--
!ARRRHHH--!!
ZZRAKK
[illegible] OF VOLTS: ENOUGH TO KILL A SURFACE-DWELLING MAN...
BUT, THOUGH NAMOR'S FATHER WAS HUMAN, HIS MOTHER WAS A PRINCESS OF A STRANGE SUB-ARCTIC RACE...
AND THEIR HYBRID SON POSSESSES POWERS FAR BEYOND EITHER.
THUS, HE LIVES...
...THOUGH HE IS HELD UNCONSCIOUS, AS THE TORPEDO NOW TURNS OF ITS OWN VOLITION AND HEADS BACK TOWARD ITS SOURCE!
THE UNARMED FREIGHTER IS LONG SINCE OUT OF SIGHT WHEN--
UHHH--! MY HEAD-- I--CHAINS! I'M IN CHAINS!
AND, THE TRUNKS I'M WEARING! WHAT--?
I PICKED THEM OUT FOR YOU, NAMOR...!
THE SHARK!
PRECISELY WHOM YOU'D EXPECT TO [illegible] HURLING SHARK-SHAPED TORPEDOES FROM A SHARK-INSPIRED SHIP!
I'M AMUSED THAT YOU AND THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES ACTUALLY BELIEVED I CARED THAT MUCH ABOUT JUST ONE MORE BRITISH FREIGHTER!
IT WAS YOU I WAS AFTER, ALL ALONG--
YOU TELL 'IM, SKIPPER!
YEAH. TELL.
--JUST AS MY COLLEAGUES, THE HYENA AND AGENT AXIS, WERE IN TRUTH AFTER YOUR FELLOW INVADERS!
WHAT'S MORE, A CODED MESSAGE HAS JUST INFORMED ME-- YOU FRIENDS HAVE [illegible] FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

THEY DON'T TAKE CREDIT FOR THAT, HOWEVER.
WHAT MATTERS IS-- THEY ACCOMPLISHED THEIR MISSIONS!
MINE WAS TO ACQUIRE YOUR UNIQUE TRUNKS, TO BE ANALYZED BY SCIENTISTS OF THE THIRD REICH...


"FOR, WE KNOW THEY ARE MADE OF SUCH WATERPROOF AND PRESSURE-RESISTING MATERIALS THAT, IF AN ARMY OF NAZI FROGMEN COULD BE EQUIPPED WITH SUITS MADE OF IT--
--"THEY COULD ATTACK ANY COASTAL CITY FROM U-BOATS FAR OFF SHORE!"


WHAT DID THEY WANT WITH THE [redacted] INVADERS?
THE FÜHRER, OF COURSE, HAS ALWAYS BEEN FAS- [redacted] TO LEARN THE SECRET OF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD-- ITS EERIE INVULNERABILITY.
HE ALSO LEARNED THAT THE HUMAN TORCH'S BLOOD RECENTLY ENABLED A YOUNG BRITISH WOMAN TO RUN AT TREMENDOUS SPEEDS.
THAT IS WHY WE THREE WERE CHOSEN--
HE FORESEES AN ARMY OF SUCH SUPER-SPEEDSTERS...AN ARMY OF INFINITE MANEUVERABILITY!

FOR, WE KNEW THE ALLIES WOULD SEND YOU BACK HERE TO--
DON'T BOTHER EVEN TRYING, FISH-MAN...
MY RATHER DIM-WITTED CREW [redacted] YOU OFF THOROUGHLY ...AND I KNOW THAT SEVERELY WEAKENS YOU!

INCIDENTALLY, I SUPPLIED YOU WITH THOSE TRUNKS YOU WEAR BECAUSE THAT IS HOW CERTAIN COMIC-BOOK ARTISTS CURRENTLY DEPICT YOU.
THEY'VE NOT BEEN PRIVILEGED TO KNOW YOU AS WELL AS I HAVE.
YOU! UGLY ONE!

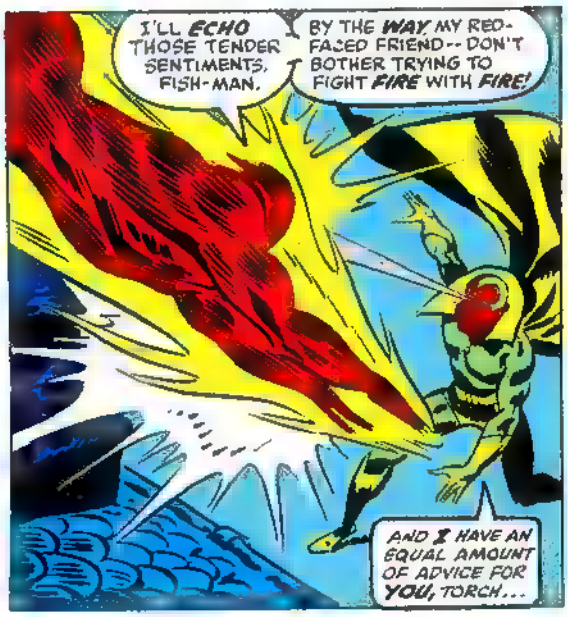
HUH? YOU CALLED ME-- UGLY!?
I DID-- FOR THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE!
EVEN UGLIER THAN THE MASTER YOU SERVE!
I AM, HUH...?

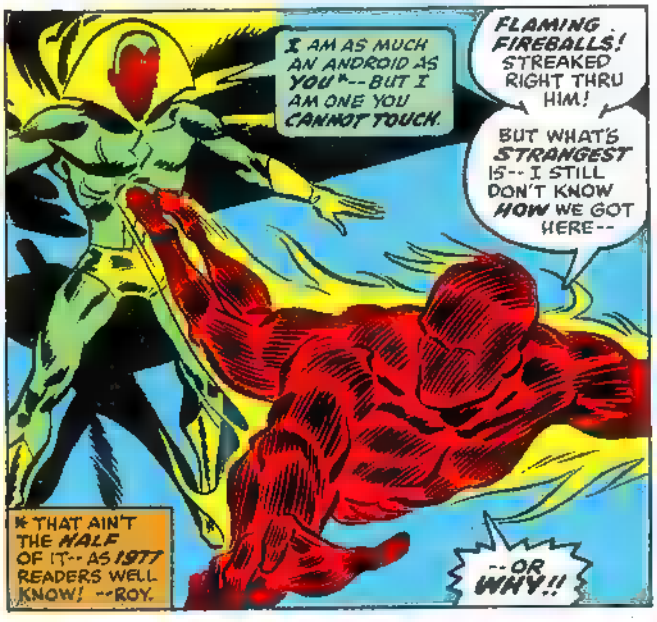
WELL, YOU'RE ALL WET, IS WHAT YOU ARE! SEE?
JOE--DON'T! THAT'S JUST WHAT HE--
--WANTS!
TOO LATE, LAND-CRAWLERS...
SKRAK!
SPLASH
NOW, YOU CAN ONLY HOPE THERE ARE NO [redacted] IN THESE WATERS--
--WHILE I DEAL WITH ONE WHO IS FAR MORE EVIL THAN ALL THE TOOTHSOME SHARKS THAT EVER STALKED THE [redacted] FLOOR!
THOSE FOOLS! I WARNED THEM NOT TO--
YOU KNOW THAT GUN WILL NOT HARM ME!
BLAM
BLAM
I HAVE NO SOFT SPOT.
WHAT ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? MAYBE, IF I HIT SOME SOFT SPOT--
THEN I'M FINISHED, AND--WHAT?
YOU'RE--CHANGING SOMEHOW--YES, [redacted]-- JUST LIKE WHAT THEY SAID HAPPENED TO THE OTHER TWO!
PERILS OF PROTEUS!
BUT--HOW? I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING THAT COULD HAVE--
NAMOR HEARS NO MORE OF THE SHARK'S WORDS...

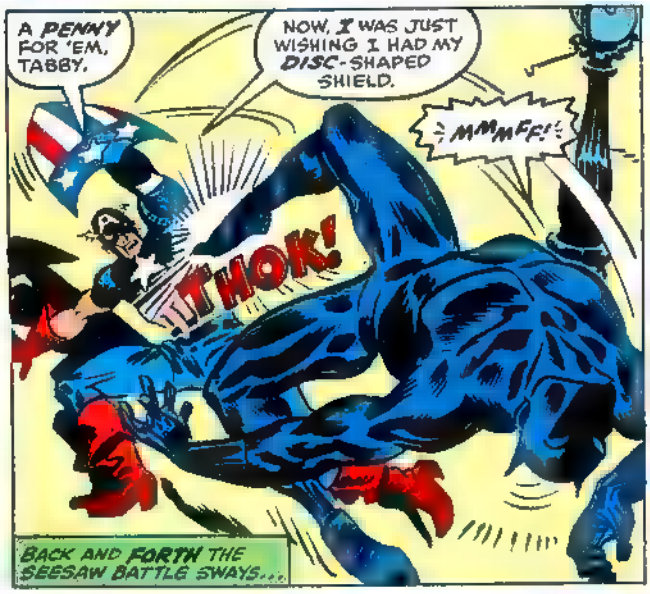
FOR, THE FOLLOWING INSTANT--
NAMOR! YOU TOO!?
CAPTAIN AMERICA! TORCH! HOW-- WHERE--?!
WE'VE BEEN DRIFTING AROUND FOR SEVERAL SECONDS NOW, SUBBY--
--AND WE'VE NO MORE IDEA OF WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US THAN WHEN WE SUDDENLY GOT ZAPPED HERE!
IT'S AS IF SOME ANGRY GOD GRABBED US UP-- TOSSED US INTO LIMBO HERE! WE--
HOLD IT, TORCH-- NAMOR!
MAYBE WE DON'T KNOW-- MAY NEVER KNOW-- JUST WHERE WE'VE BEEN, OR HOW WE GOT THERE--
BUT, I THINK WE CAN ALL RECOGNIZE JUST WHERE WE SEEM TO BE GOING!
WE'RE-- MATERIALIZING AGAIN! AND THAT BUILDING--
IT'S THE LOUVRE! WE'RE IN OCCUPIED PARIS!
AND THOSE MASKED FIGURES IN FRONT OF IT--
THEY DON'T SEEM TO SEE US YET--
BUT, THEY MUST BE NAZIS-- MAYBE ANOTHER BREED OF FASCIST SUPER-HERO, LIKE THE ONES WE'VE BATTLED BEFORE!
IF THEY ARE--
THIS OUGHT TO MAKE THEM RUN FOR COVER!
HANK-- LOOK OUT!
THAT FLAMING FIREBALL-- COMING FROM OUT OF NOWHERE--!
THANKS, PANTHER! WHO--?

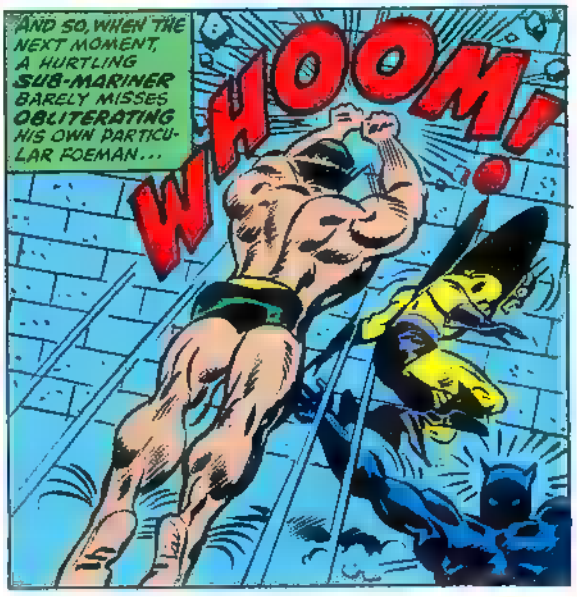
CHAPTER V
ENDGAME, PART II
NOT FROM NOWHERE, NAZI-- BUT FROM THE HUMAN TORCH!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU THREE BROUGHT US TO NAZI-LAND--
BUT, WE'LL FIGHT OUR WAY BACK-- YOU CAN BET ON IT!
CAP-- THE SUB-MARINER-- AND THE FIRST ANDROID TORCH!
BUT-- AS THEY WERE IN 1941!
AND, THEY DON'T KNOW AN AVENGER FROM A VOLKS-WAGEN!
THEY ONLY SEE THEY'RE IN OCCUPIED PARIS-- SO WE MUST BE NAZIS!
QUESTION PERIOD LATER, NAZIS!
RIGHT NOW, IT'S TIME FOR OUR BATTLE CRY--
OKAY, AXIS-- HERE WE COME!!
TO WHICH WE CAN ONLY REPLY--
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
SPECIAL NOTE: IF YOU'VE BEEN A MARVEL MADMAN FOR LESS THAN EIGHT YEARS, YOU MIGHT BE A WEE BIT CONFUSED RIGHT ABOUT NOW...

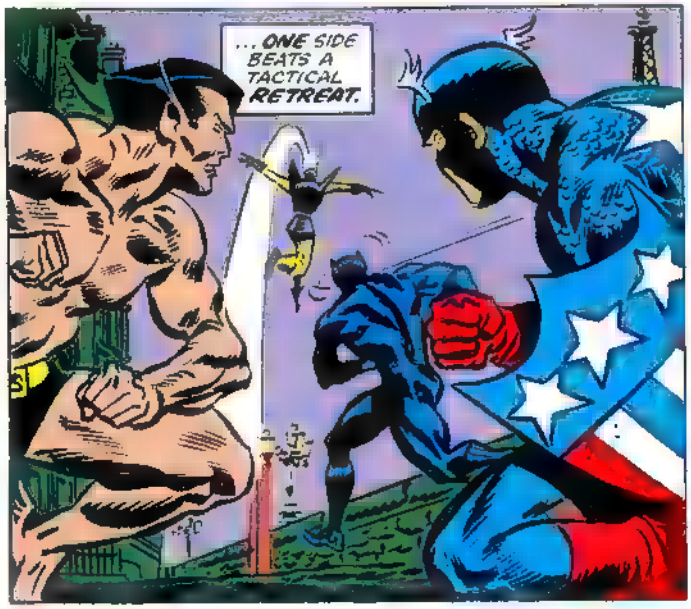
BUT, DON'T GO 'WAY--
--'CAUSE WE'LL GET RIGHT BACK TO YOU.
YOU'RE FAST-- LIKE THE JUNGLE CAT YOU COPY, BUT MY SHIELD IS FASTER!
UNNHHH!
KLANG!
WAIT! DID HE SAY-- WE THREE ARE LIKE WE WERS IN 'AU'? WHY--?
OF COURSE! IT'S MY SHIELD! SOMEHOW, HE KNOWS I ONLY [redacted] IT IN--
WHAT IN--?
HE'S EVEN QUICKER THAN I THOUGHT!
WHO ARE THE MASKED JOKERS, ANYWAY?
WATCH THEM, CAPTAIN AMERICA-- THEY'RE FULL OF [redacted] TRICKS!
WE'RE NO MORE NAZIS THAN [redacted] ARE, NAMOR.
YEEEOWWW!
NO USE! HE WON'T LISTEN.
YOU'VE SHRUNK-- TO THE SIZE OF THE INSECT YOU RESEMBLE!
KRU
CH
YOU GET A 20-20 ON YOUR EYE TEST, SQUINTY.
AND, WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF MY SIX-[redacted]LEGGED FRIENDS--
--HERE ARE ENOUGH OF THEM TO KEEP YOU BUSY FOR A WHILE!
TALK [redacted] YOU SMIRKING LITTLE--
AAARRHH!
BY THE WAY, I LIKE YOU BETTER WHEN YOU TALK WITH CONTRACTIONS.
BEES! ENOUGH OF THEM TO PIERCE EVEN MY HYBRID HIDE!
BUT, WHEN THEY'RE FINISHED, NAZI-- SO ARE YOU!
RUE RIV


I'LL ECHO THOSE TENDER SENTIMENTS, FISH-MAN.
BY THE WAY, MY RED-FACED FRIEND-- DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE!
AND I HAVE AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF ADVICE FOR YOU, TORCH...


I AM AS MUCH AN ANDROID AS YOU*-- BUT I AM ONE YOU CANNOT TOUCH.
FLAMING FIREBALLS! STREAKED RIGHT THRU HIM!
BUT WHAT'S STRANGEST IS-- I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW WE GOT HERE--
--OR WHY!!
*THAT AIN'T THE HALF OF IT-- AS 1977 READERS WELL KNOW! --ROY.

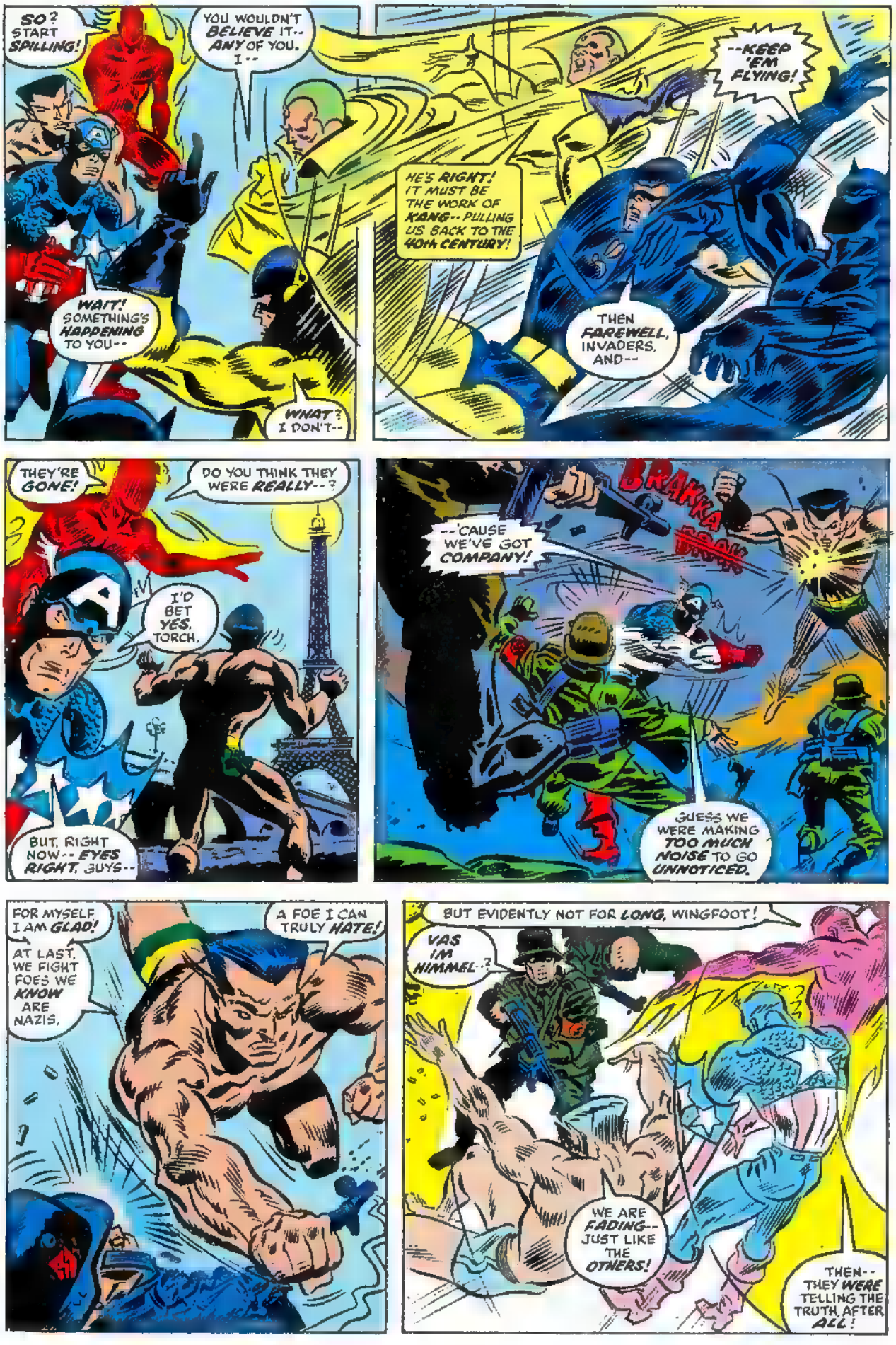

A PENNY FOR 'EM, TABBY.
NOW, I WAS JUST WISHING I HAD MY DISC-SHAPED SHIELD.
MMMFF!
THOK!
BACK AND FORTH THE SEESAW BATTLE SWAYS...


AND SO, WHEN THE NEXT MOMENT, A HURTLING SUB-MARINER BARELY MISSES OBLITERATING HIS OWN PARTICULAR FOEMAN...
WHOOM!

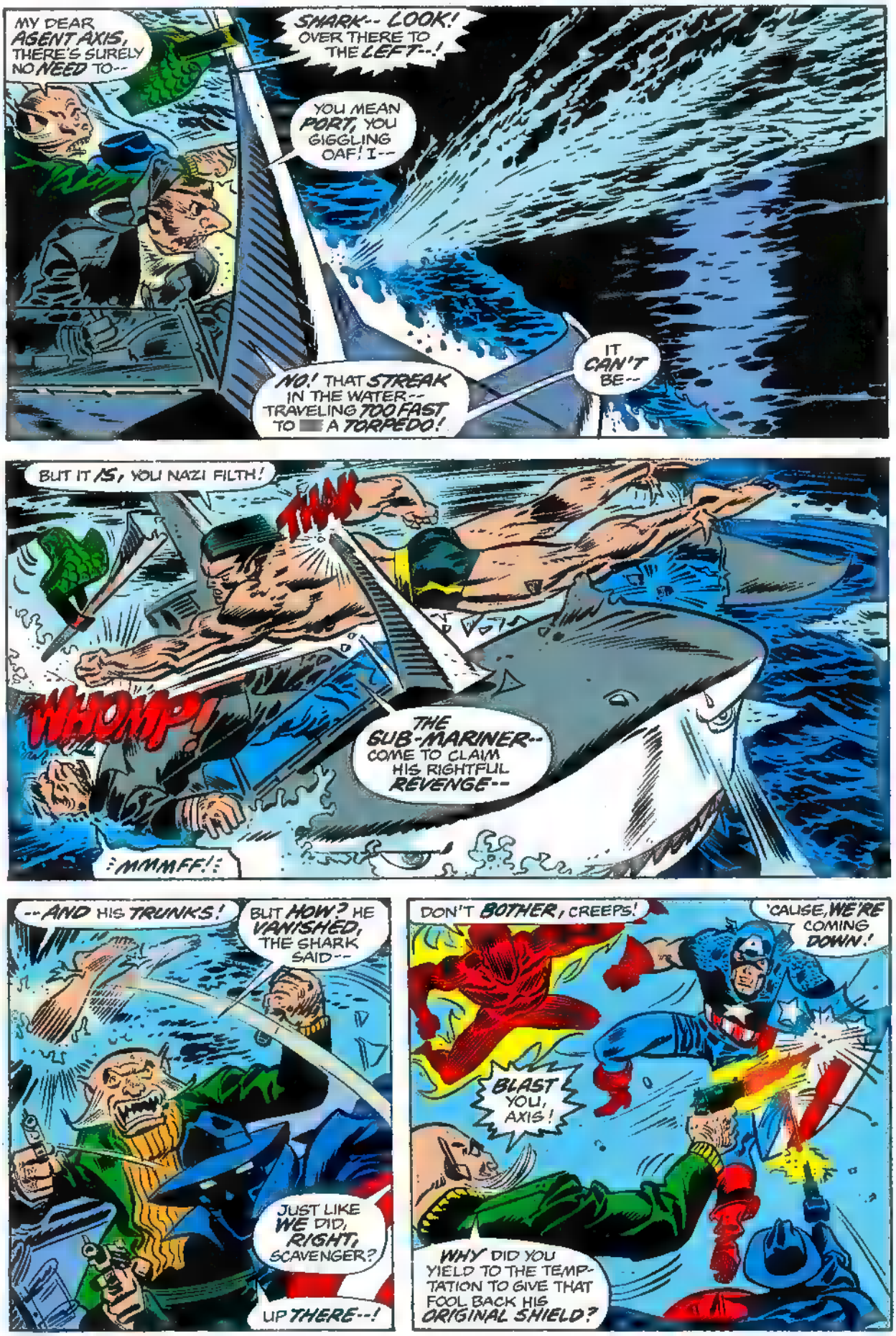

...ONE SIDE BEATS A TACTICAL RETREAT.

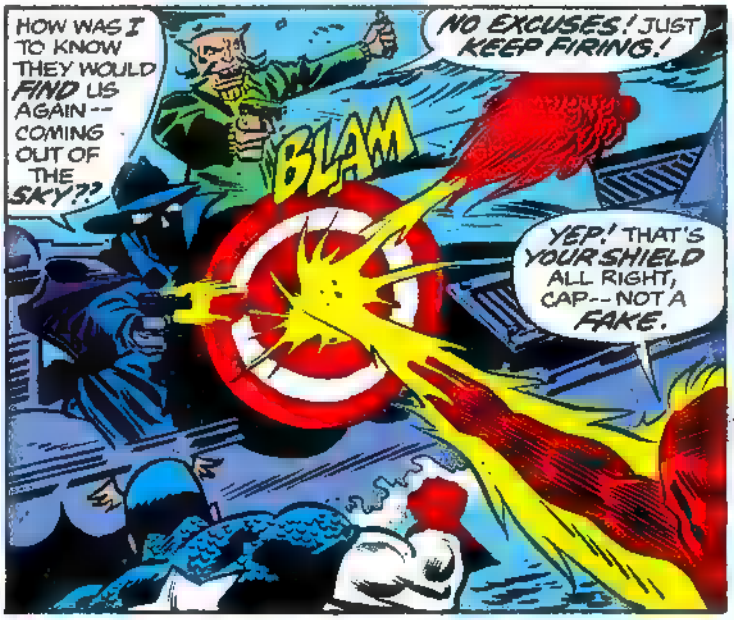
GOOD GOING YELLOWJACKET!
NOW WE'VE GOT THEM IN THE PERFECT POSITION.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, PANTHER?
YOU'LL SEE!
IT CONCERNS-- THE VISION!

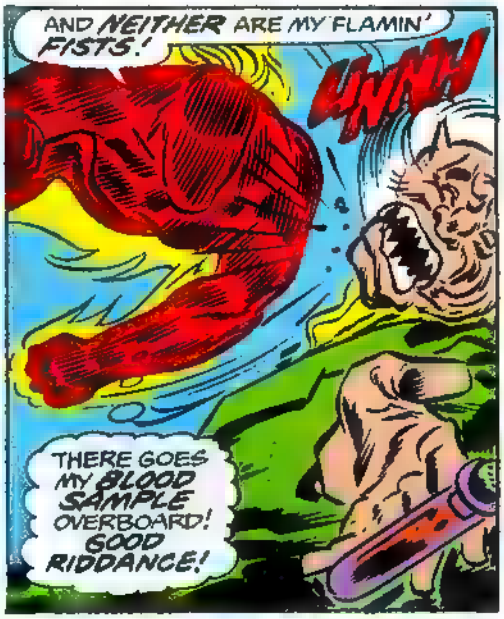
IT WAS A TRAP!
THOSE TWO LINED US UP, AND THEN--UMNNH!
I DID IT-- FLEW THRU THEM, BECOMING JUST SOLID ENOUGH TO CAUSE AN UNBEARABLE STRAIN ON THEIR BODIES!
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT, IF THEY HAD KNOWN AS MUCH ABOUT THE AVENGERS AS WE KNOW ABOUT THE FABLED INVADERS!
WHAT MATTERS, VISION, IS THAT, BY THE GRACE OF GOD--WE'VE WON!
WON...? WHAT THE DEVIL... ARE YOU... TALKING ABOUT, BUG-MAN?
AYE! DID YOU TRULY THINK YOU'D DEFEATED THE INVADERS SO EASILY?
GOOD LORD! THEY'RE STAGGERED--
--BUT THEY'RE GETTING BACK ON THEIR FEET!
NO MATTER! BY THE RULES OF THE GAME, WE HAVE WON SIMPLY BY DOWNING THEM FOR AN INSTANT.
I'LL ASK YOU CHARACTERS ONE MORE TIME--WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WON"?
THIS WASN'T ANY GAME WE WERE PLAYING HERE.
BUT IT WAS, INVADERS!
PLEASE--LET ME EXPLAIN.
YOU'D BETTER--AND FAST!
WE THREE BELONG TO AN AMERICAN SUPER-HERO GROUP MORE THAN TWO DECADES IN THE FUTURE, CALLED THE AVENGERS.
WE WERE SENT HERE TO BATTLE YOU, AS PART OF A COSMIC CHESS GAME BETWEEN TWO SUPER-BADDIES NAMED KANG AND THE GRAND-MASTER.*
YOU THREE WERE GRABBED TO BE THE GRAND-MASTER'S TEAM--ONLY [redacted] EVIDENTLY DIDN'T BOTHER TO TELL YOU.
*AS RECORDED IN AVENGERS #71, 1969. --R.T.
DON'T TRUST THEM, INVADERS!
LOOK--IF YOU SO-CALLED "AVENGERS" ARE REALLY ON THE LEVEL--YOU CAN PROVE IT BY TELLING US WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS IN STORE FOR US.
YES...WE COULD, CAP...

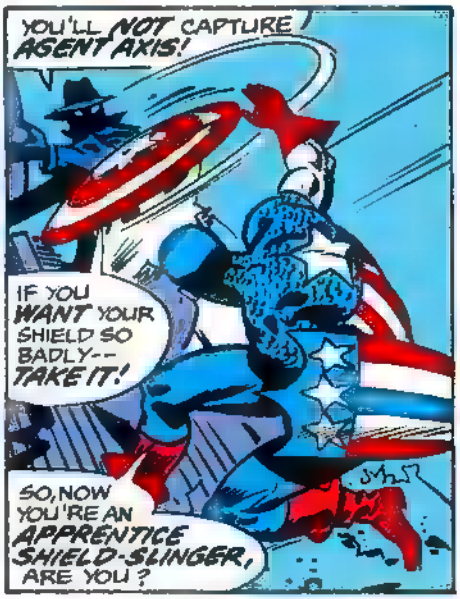

SO? START SPILLING!
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT-- ANY OF YOU. I--
WAIT! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO YOU--
WHAT? I DON'T--
HE'S RIGHT! IT MUST BE THE WORK OF KANG-- PULLING US BACK TO THE 40th CENTURY!
--KEEP 'EM FLYING!
THEN FAREWELL, INVADERS, AND--
THEY'RE GONE!
DO YOU THINK THEY WERE REALLY--?
I'D BET YES, TORCH.
BUT, RIGHT NOW-- EYES RIGHT, GUYS--
BRAKKA
--'CAUSE WE'VE GOT COMPANY!
GUESS WE WERE MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE TO GO UNNOTICED.
FOR MYSELF, I AM GLAD!
AT LAST, WE FIGHT FOES WE KNOW ARE NAZIS.
A FOE I CAN TRULY HATE!
BUT EVIDENTLY NOT FOR LONG, WINGFOOT!
VAS IM HIMMEL--?
WE ARE FADING-- JUST LIKE THE OTHERS!
THEN-- THEY WERE TELLING THE TRUTH, AFTER ALL!

THEY WERE, INVADERS!
LOOK! IT MUST [redacted] THE ONE THEY CALLED -- THE GRAND-MASTER!
AYE! STILL, EVEN SUCH AS I MAY MAKE MISTAKES!
FOR, HAD I INFORMED YOU OF YOUR PURPOSE WHEN I CULLED YOU FOR MY COSMIC GAME, YOU MIGHT WELL HAVE WON FOR ME!
SPEAKING OF GAMES, BIG MAN --
-- WE WERE PLAYING A FEW OF OUR OWN WITH SOME OF OUR ENEMIES, WHEN WE WERE RUDELY INTERRUPTED -- SO HOW ABOUT --?
YOU ARE BRUSQUE, EARTHLING -- BUT NOT UNJUSTIFIED.
THUS, SINCE YOU FOUGHT WELL FOR ME --
-- I SHALL RETURN YOU TO THE YEAR 1942 --
"-- TO BOTH YOUR OWN DESTINIES -- AND THOSE OF OTHERS!"
HAHAHAHA! THIS BOAT OF YOURS IS A WONDER, SHARK!
THANKS, HYENA. NO COAST GUARD CUTTER CAN POSSIBLY OVERTAKE US --
-- BEFORE WE RENDEZVOUS WITH THE U-BOAT WHICH WILL TAKE US TO OUR RICHLY-DESERVED REWARD IN FORTRESS [redacted]!
DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE COSTUMED [redacted] WHO FELL INTO OUR TRAPS --
BUT, AT LEAST I CAN MEET THE FÜHRER USING NAMOR'S TRUNKS AS MY PERSONAL FLAG!
WHILE THE HUMAN TORCH'S ANDROID BLOOD MY SOON CREATE AN ARMY OF SUPER-POWERED STORM TROOPERS! HAHAHAHA!
BAH! I FIND BOTH YOUR PRESUMPTUOUS ATTITUDES OFFENSIVE.
THE TRUE PRIZE OF THIS MISSION IS CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD!


MY DEAR AGENT AXIS, THERE'S SURELY NO NEED TO--
SHARK-- LOOK! OVER THERE TO THE LEFT--!
YOU MEAN PORT, YOU GIGGLING OAF! I--
IT CAN'T BE--
NO! THAT STREAK IN THE WATER-- TRAVELING TOO FAST TO BE A TORPEDO!
BUT IT IS, YOU NAZI FILTH!
THAK
WHOMP!
THE SUB-MARINER-- COME TO CLAIM HIS RIGHTFUL REVENGE--
:MMMFF!:
--AND HIS TRUNKS!
BUT HOW? HE VANISHED, THE SHARK SAID--
JUST LIKE WE DID, RIGHT, SCAVENGER?
UP THERE--!
DON'T BOTHER, CREEPS!
'CAUSE, WE'RE COMING DOWN!
BLAST YOU, AXIS!
WHY DID YOU YIELD TO THE TEMPTATION TO GIVE THAT FOOL BACK HIS ORIGINAL SHIELD?

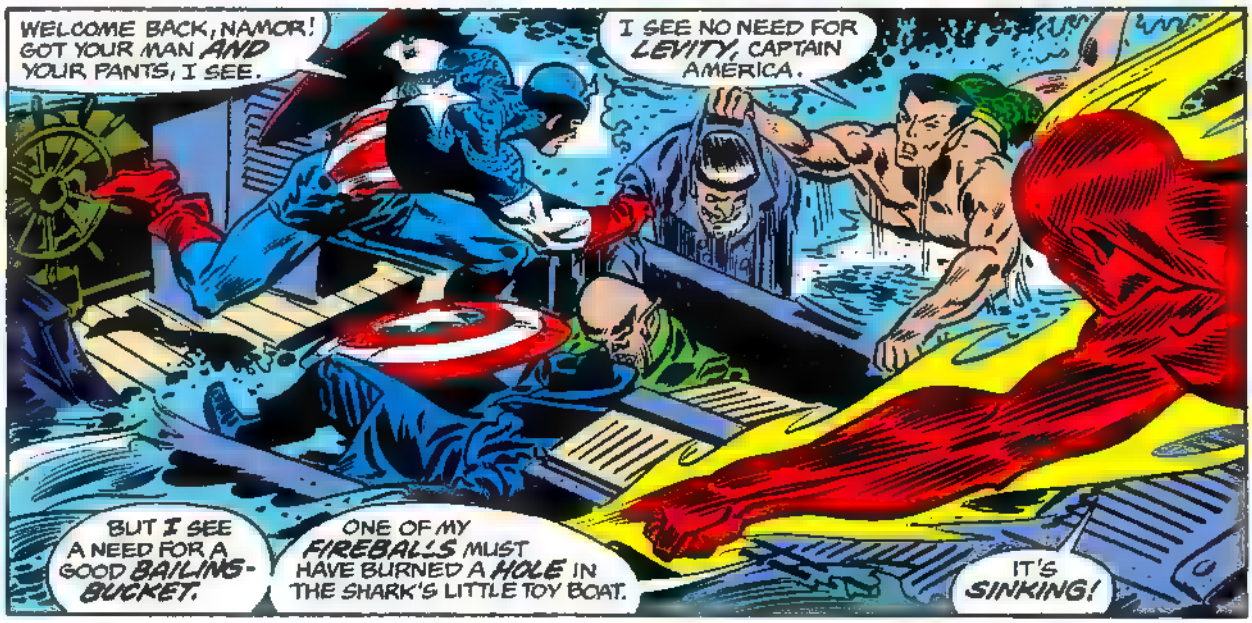

HOW WAS I TO KNOW THEY WOULD FIND US AGAIN -- COMING OUT OF THE SKY??
NO EXCUSES! JUST KEEP FIRING!
BLAM
YEP! THAT'S YOUR SHIELD ALL RIGHT, CAP-- NOT A FAKE.

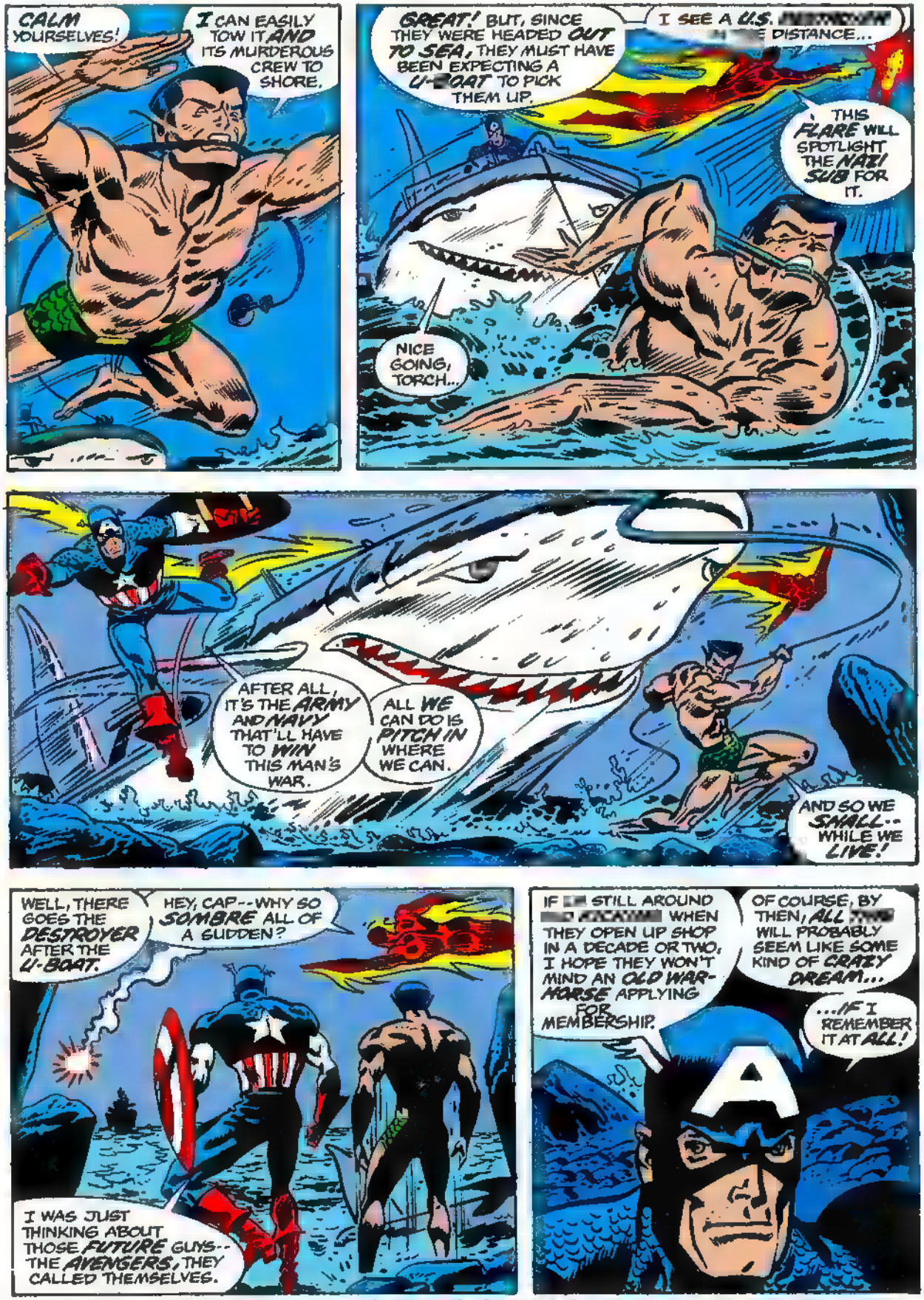

AND NEITHER ARE MY FLAMIN' FISTS!
UNNH
THERE GOES MY BLOOD SAMPLE OVERBOARD! GOOD RIDDANCE!


YOU'LL NOT CAPTURE AGENT AXIS!
IF YOU WANT YOUR SHIELD SO BADLY-- TAKE IT!
SO, NOW YOU'RE AN APPRENTICE SHIELD-SLINGER, ARE YOU?

WELL, IT TAKES LONG MONTHS OF PRACTICE TO GET REALLY GOOD AT IT--

--AS I'M SURE YOU JUST REALIZED!
SPLAT
ARRR


WELCOME BACK, NAMOR! GOT YOUR MAN AND YOUR PANTS, I SEE.
I SEE NO NEED FOR LEVITY, CAPTAIN AMERICA.
BUT I SEE A NEED FOR A GOOD BAILING-BUCKET.
ONE OF MY FIREBALLS MUST HAVE BURNED A HOLE IN THE SHARK'S LITTLE TOY BOAT.
IT'S SINKING!


CALM YOURSELVES!
I CAN EASILY TOW IT AND ITS MURDEROUS CREW TO SHORE.
GREAT! BUT, SINCE THEY WERE HEADED OUT TO SEA, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN EXPECTING A U-BOAT TO PICK THEM UP.
I SEE A U.S. [redacted] DISTANCE...
THIS FLARE WILL SPOTLIGHT THE NAZI SUB FOR IT.
NICE GOING, TORCH...
AFTER ALL, IT'S THE ARMY AND NAVY THAT'LL HAVE TO WIN THIS MAN'S WAR.
ALL WE CAN DO IS PITCH IN WHERE WE CAN.
AND SO WE SMALL-- WHILE WE LIVE!
WELL, THERE GOES THE DESTROYER AFTER THE U-BOAT.
HEY, CAP--WHY SO SOMBRE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT THOSE FUTURE GUYS-- THE AVENGERS, THEY CALLED THEMSELVES.
IF [redacted] STILL AROUND [redacted] WHEN THEY OPEN UP SHOP IN A DECADE OR TWO, I HOPE THEY WON'T MIND AN OLD WAR-HORSE APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP.
OF COURSE, BY THEN, ALL [redacted] WILL PROBABLY SEEM LIKE SOME KIND OF CRAZY DREAM...
...IF I REMEMBER IT AT ALL!

THUS ENDS [redacted] YEAR'S PREMIERE INVADERS ANNUAL! BUT FOLLOW THE GREATEST SUPER-HEROES OF WORLD WAR TWO IN THEIR OWN MONTHLY MARVEL MAG-- AND [redacted] HOPE AND PRAY THAT'S THE CLOSEST ANYONE EVER COMES TO THE HELL THAT MEN CALL [redacted]! --ROY, FRANK, AND FRANK.

MARVEL
2
.com
FEATURING AN ALL-NEW STORY BY ROY THOMAS & LEE WEEKS
GIANT-SIZE
INVADERS

June 19, 1942.
The sky was dappled with clouds that morning...
THIS IS A WASTE OF OUR TIME!
IF IT IS, WE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH.
HERE IT COMES, PEOPLE...

A DRIVE IN THE COUNTRY

A TALE OF GIANT-SIZE INVADERS

BY:

ROY THOMAS
WRITER

LEE WEEKS
PENCILER

JESSE DE PERIANG, MIKE PERKINS & JT MITNT
FINISHES

BETOCOLOR'S
COLORIST

VC'S JOE
LETTERER

DEBORAH
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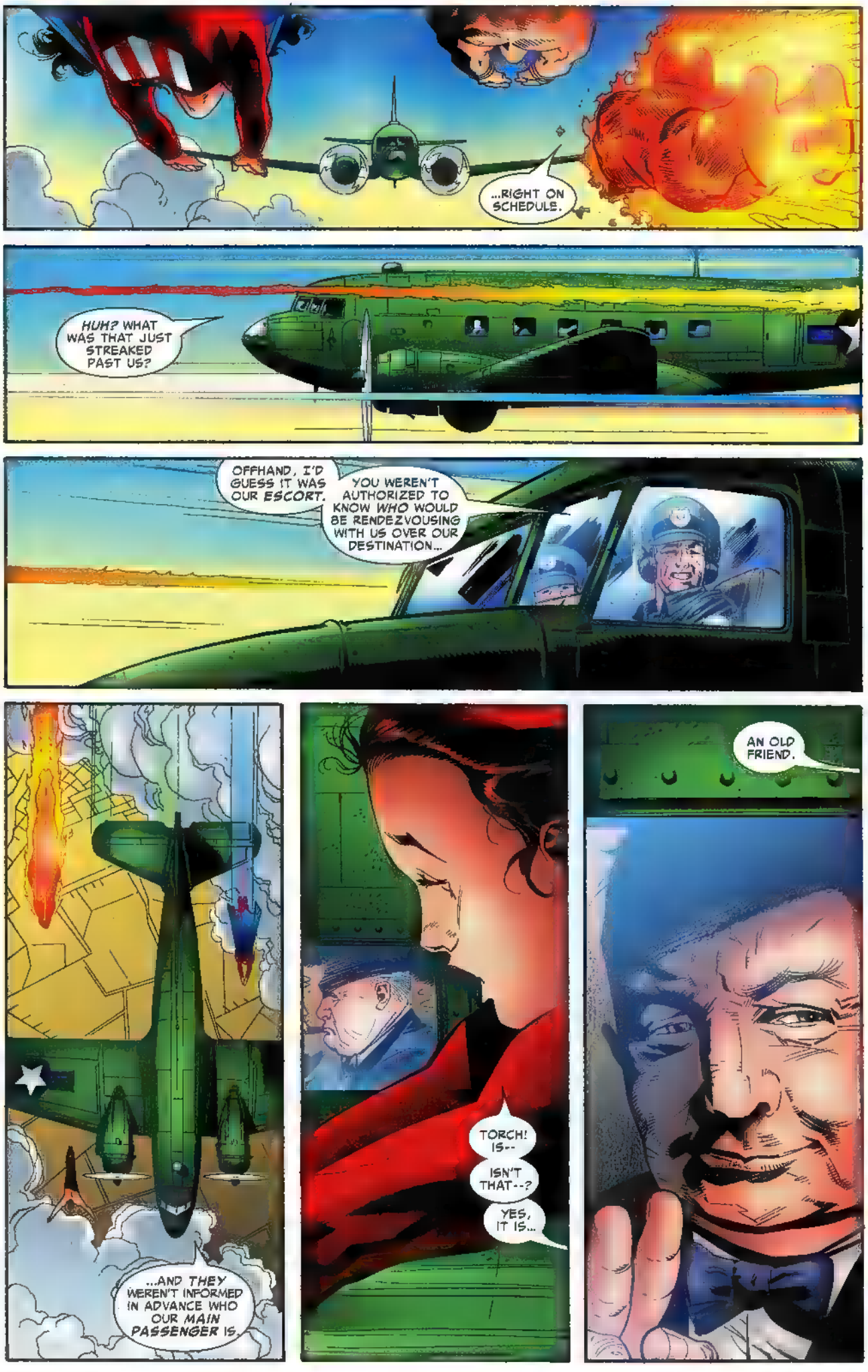
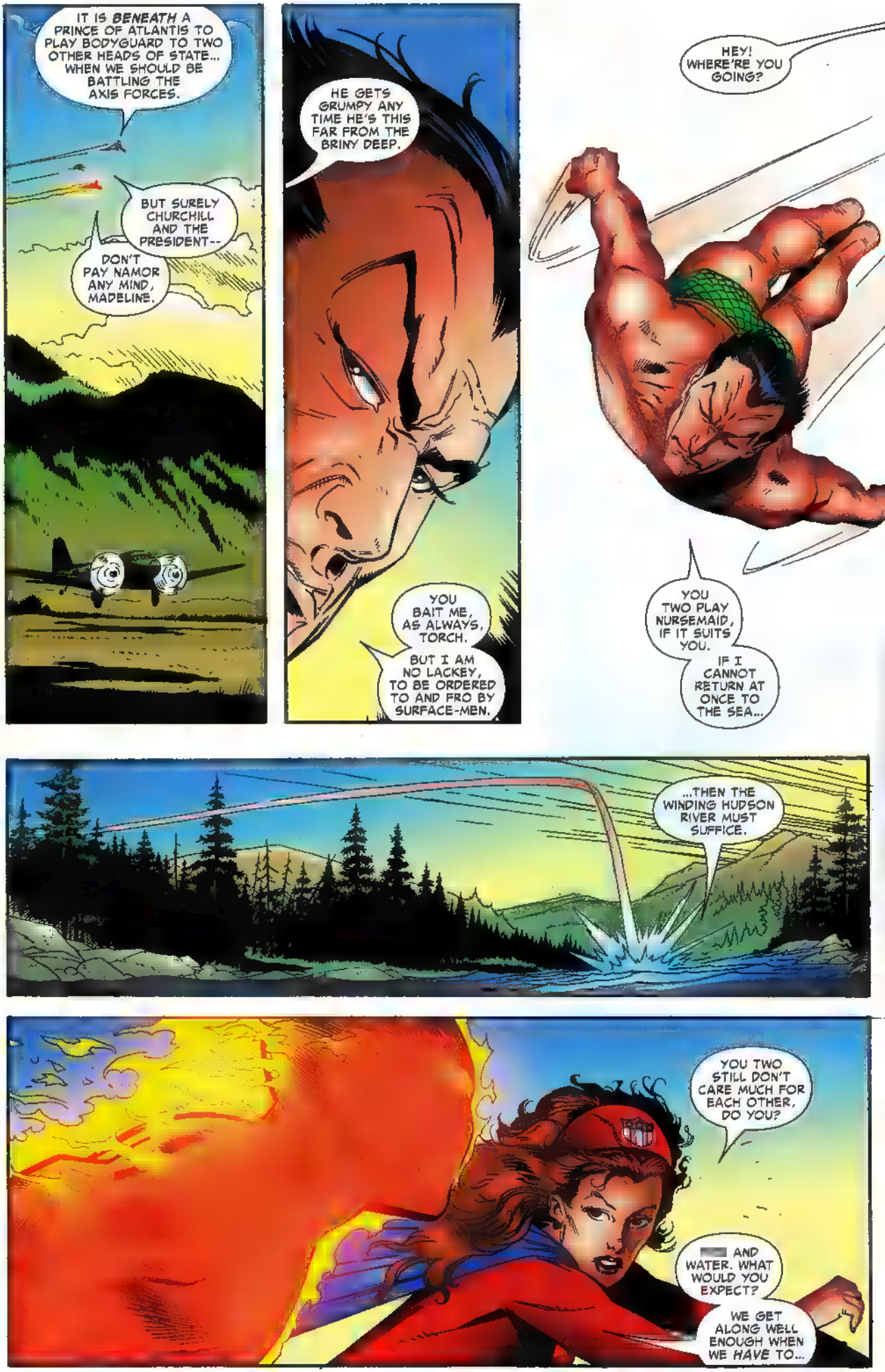

...RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.
HUH? WHAT WAS THAT JUST STREAKED PAST US?
OFFHAND, I'D GUESS IT WAS OUR ESCORT.
YOU WEREN'T AUTHORIZED TO KNOW WHO WOULD BE RENDEZVOUSING WITH US OVER OUR DESTINATION...
...AND THEY WEREN'T INFORMED IN ADVANCE WHO OUR MAIN PASSENGER IS.
TORCH! IS--
ISN'T THAT--?
YES, IT IS...
AN OLD FRIEND.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT--YOU GUYS'VE MET HIM BEFORE, HAVEN'T YOU?
HE GAVE OUR GROUPING ITS NAME, HALF A YEAR AGO: THE INVADERS.
YET NOW, THAT NAME SEEMS A SAD JOKE.
HOW SO, NAMOR?
WHAT DO WE "INVADE"?
ADOLF HITLER STILL STRIDES THE RAMPARTS OF HIS FORTRESS EUROPA--
--WHILE WE THREE [redacted] REDUCED TO ESCORTING AN AIRPLANE TO A LANDING NEAR A COUNTRY ESTATE.
THEY'RE COMING IN, MR. PRESIDENT.
IT WILL BE GOOD TO SEE WINSTON AGAIN, CAP.
YOU DON'T MIND IF I CALL YOU "CAP," DO YOU?
NO, SIR.
SO THE RUMORS WE HEARD WERE RIGHT?
WINSTON CHURCHILL'S BACK [redacted] THIS COUNTRY, FOR ANOTHER CONFERENCE?
IT'S DIFFICULT DEALING WITH ALLIES ONLY VIA LETTERS AND THE OCCASIONAL PHONE CALL.
I'VE ALWAYS PREFERRED DEALING WITH PEOPLE FACE-TO-FACE.


IT IS BENEATH A PRINCE OF ATLANTIS TO PLAY BODYGUARD TO TWO OTHER HEADS OF STATE... WHEN WE SHOULD BE BATTLING THE AXIS FORCES.
BUT SURELY CHURCHILL AND THE PRESIDENT--
DON'T PAY NAMOR ANY MIND, MADELINE.
HE GETS GRUMPY ANY TIME HE'S THIS FAR FROM THE BRINY DEEP.
YOU BAIT ME, AS ALWAYS, TORCH.
BUT I AM NO LACKEY, TO BE ORDERED TO AND FRO BY SURFACE-MEN.
HEY! WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
YOU TWO PLAY NURSEMAID, IF IT SUITS YOU.
IF I CANNOT RETURN AT ONCE TO THE SEA...
...THEN THE WINDING HUDSON RIVER MUST SUFFICE.
YOU TWO STILL DON'T CARE MUCH FOR EACH OTHER, DO YOU?
[redacted] AND WATER. WHAT WOULD YOU EXPECT?
WE GET ALONG WELL ENOUGH WHEN WE HAVE TO...

...BUT ON THIS ASSIGNMENT, THE SUB-MARINER ■ JUST A FIFTH WHEEL.
WHERE'D NAMOR GET TO?
HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT NEEDING A BATH.
HELLO, WINSTON.
GOOD MORNING, MR. PRESIDENT.
"FRANKLIN," PLEASE.
FRANKLIN. WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MY GOOD FRIEND.
YOU ALREADY KNOW CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE HUMAN TORCH...
...AND THE YOUNG LADY IS MISS AMERICA.
AH! THE WINNER OF YOUR NATIONAL BEAUTY CONTEST...AND SHE CAN FLY, AS WELL?
UH...AFRAID I'M NOT THAT MISS AMERICA, MR. PRIME MINISTER.
IT'S JUST A BAD CHOICE OF CODE-NAMES I MADE A FEW MONTHS AGO...AND NOW I'M STUCK WITH IT.
SORRY... I'M NATTERING AWAY...JUST A BIT NERVOUS...
BY THE TIME ■ RETURN TO LONDON, I'M SURE WE'LL ■ FAST FRIENDS.
HOP IN, WINSTON.
YOUR AIDES CAN RIDE WITH OUR SECRET SERVICE AGENTS.

I'M EAGER TO SHOW YOU HOW WELL THESE NEW MANUAL CONTROLS WORK.
YOU... CERTAINLY CAN ACCELERATE QUICKLY, CAN'T YOU?
SKREEEECH
THE OLD MAN'S DOING IT AGAIN!
GET IN! IT'S OUR TAILS IF WE LET HIM GIVE US THE SLIP!
THIS IS A LITTLE GAME I PLAY WITH THE SECRET SERVICE BOYS, WINSTON.
KEEPS THEM ON THEIR TOES.
BUT, IS IT WISE TO DRIVE...THIS FAST?
HYDE PARK IS MY FAMILY'S ESTATE. I COULD DRIVE THESE WOODS BLINDFOLDED.
I SHALL GLADLY TAKE YOUR WORD ON THAT.
THE PRESIDENT DRIVES? I THOUGHT HE WAS A--
HE CAN'T WALK UNAIDED-- BUT HE CAN CONTROL THAT CAR WITH ONLY HIS HANDS.
FLOOR IT, MAN!
VRRU
JUM
J316

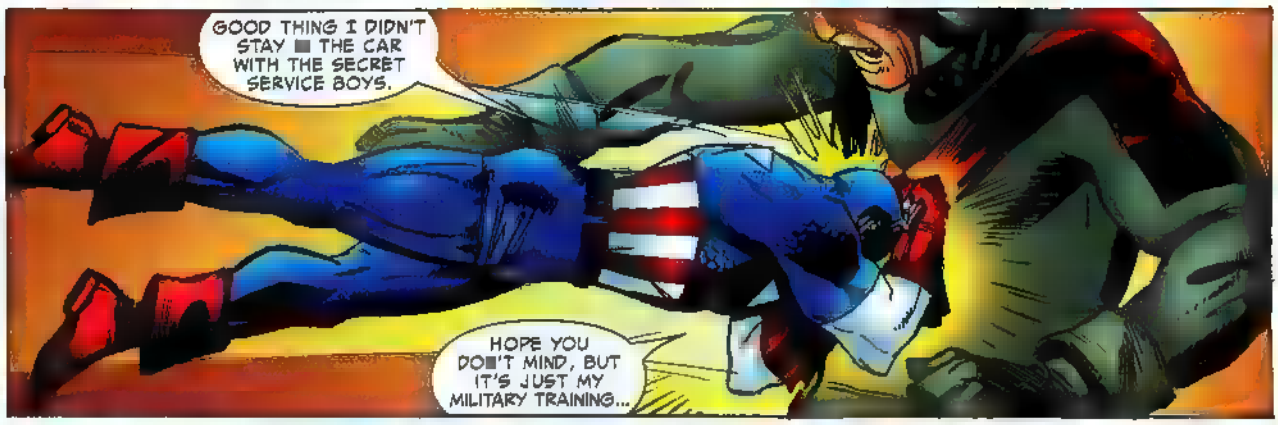
VRRUUUUMM
...RACING MOTORS?
CANNOT AIR-BREATHERS EVER SIMPLY RELAX AND ENJOY A FINE SUMMER'S DAY?
...CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WE ACTUALLY MANAGED TO SNEAK ONTO ROOSEVELT'S OWN LANDS!
THERE IS NO TIME FOR SELF-CONGRATULATION, HANS. WE MUST ACT ON THE INFORMATION [redacted] WERE GIVEN...
...BY DER FÜHRER HIMSELF!
A CAR APPROACHES! THUS, IT IS TIME--
--WE TOOK OUR PILLS.
HEIL HITLER!
ARRRRGGG

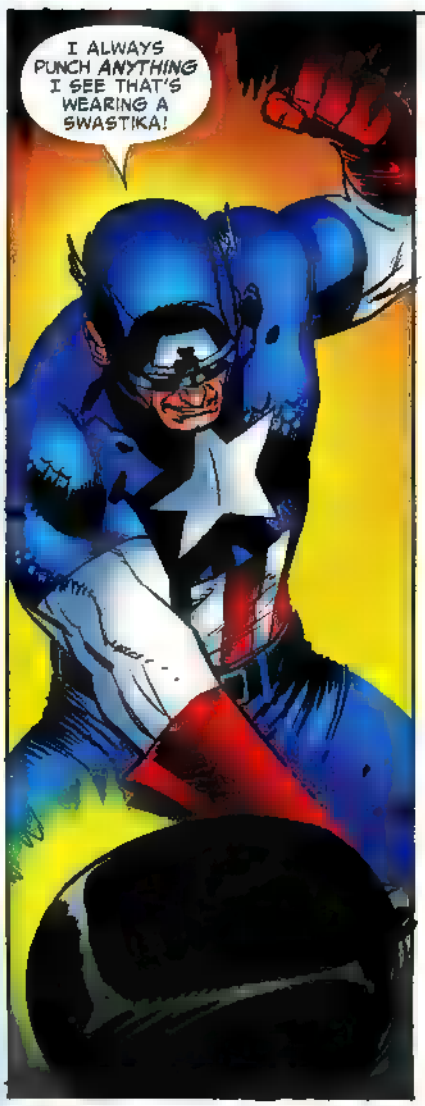
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE THE STEERING WHEEL, WEAVING BETWEEN THE TREES AT THIS SPEED?
NO NEED TO WORRY. MY LEGS MAY BE USELESS...
...BUT I HAVE BICEPS THAT A BOXING CHAMPION ONCE ENVIED.
FEEL THAT MUSCLE!
ER...YES, I CAN TELL IT'S QUITE--
GO AHEAD-- FEEL IT!
VERY IMPRESSIVE. BUT--
WHAT'S THAT IN OUR PATH?
GOOD LORD...
A GREAT MOUND OF *LEAVES*? BUT I KNOW THESE WOODS LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND.
WAIT! SOMETHING'S *RISING* OUT OF THE LEAVES...
IS THAT *GIANT* ONE OF YOUR AMERICAN *PRANKS*, FRANKLIN?
A HUGE *BALLOON*, PERHAPS?
NO! AND IT'S NOT *ONE* GIANT...

...IT'S TWO!
IT'S THEM! BOTH OF THEM!
DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
THEY ARE GOING NOWHERE!
BLAST THE LUCK--
LET ME BE THE ONE TO STRANGLE CHURCHILL!
YAAAAA
FSSSSHH
YOU SHOULD'VE KNOWN AMERICA WOULD GIVE YOU A WARM RECEPTION!
GIANTS--WEARING SWASTIKAS! THEY MUST THINK IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE.
WATCH OUT! DON'T GET TOO--

SWOTT
YOU OKAY?
I'LL FLY YOU TO SAFETY BEFORE I--
NO! DON'T LOWER YOUR FLAME...
WITHOUT YOUR BLAZING AURA--I WILL CRUSH YOU LIKE A FIREFLY!
F-F--
FLAME ON!
DER TEUFEL!
DON'T WASTE TIME WRESTLING WITH HIM, DUMMKOPF--
--WHEN I CAN SHOOT HIM DOWN LIKE A DOG!
AAAAA
BLAMM
NOW--MACH SCHNELL--!
HANG ON, WINSTON. I THINK I'VE GOT THIS BUGGY ROCKED OUT OF THE HOLE...
I FEAR IT MAY BE...TOO LATE!

NOT LIKE YOU TO BE A DEFEATIST, MR. PRIME MINISTER!
KLONNG


GOOD THING I DIDN'T STAY ■ THE CAR WITH THE SECRET SERVICE BOYS.
HOPE YOU DO■'T MIND, BUT IT'S JUST MY MILITARY TRAINING...


I ALWAYS PUNCH ANYTHING I SEE THAT'S WEARING A SWASTIKA!

AND I HAVE AN EQUAL AVERSION TO THE STARS AND STRIPES!
THWAK

SKWEEEEE
WE'RE MOVING!
BUT--THE RIVER--!

I'M AFRAID--THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE, WINSTON.
I SURVIVED THE AFGHANISTAN--THE BOER WAR--THE TRENCHES AT NEUVE-CHAPELLE--AND THE BLITZ.
I'LL SELL MY LIFE DEARLY TO THESE HUNS.
I...COULDN'T HAVE PUT IT BETTER MYSELF.
LOOK AT THEM, FRITZ--
THE HIGH-AND-MIGHTY LEADERS OF AMERICA AND ENGLAND--AS HELPLESS AS DROWNING CHICKENS!
AND, LIKE CHICKENS--WE SHALL WRING THEIR NECKS!
WAIT! THERE'S SOMETHING--
--MOVING THROUGH THE WATER LIKE--
--A TORPEDO!?
NEIN! DER VERDAMMTE SUB-MARINER!

NAMOR BOUGHT US A SECOND SHOT AT THESE GOOSE-STEPPERS!
GOOD THING MY BODY WAS STILL HOT ENOUGH TO MELT A BULLET--SO ONLY LIQUID METAL HIT ME.
BUT-- CHURCHILL AND THE PRESIDENT--
--WILL BE ON SHORE BEFORE YOU CAN FINISH THAT SENTENCE.
THAT AMPHIBIAN'S STRENGTH NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME!
DON'T TALK--
--DRIVE!
I, UH, THINK WE'VE JUST BEEN GIVEN AN ORDER BY A FOREIGN POTENTATE, FRANKLIN.
ONE I'M ONLY TOO HAPPY TO OBEY, OLD FRIEND!
BUT WHERE WAS YOUR SECRET SERVICE DURING ALL THAT?
HOPELESSLY MIRED SOMEWHERE IN THE WOODS, NO DOUBT--THANKS TO MY BULL-HEADEDNESS!

AAAAA
WHAT? YOU TWO GREAT BIG BOYS AFRAID OF A LITTLE RING OF FIRE?
NO, TORCH! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO THEM!
HE'S RIGHT. LOOK AT THEM--
THEY'RE BOTH CONTORTING IN AGONY!
BUT MY FLAMES WEREN'T EVEN TOUCHING THEM.
THEY'VE-- STOPPED MOVING.
THEY'RE DEAD...

YES. THEIR CORPSES ARE BECOMING... LIKE HUGE, LOOSE SACKS OF FLESH.
HOPE THEY DON'T BLOW AWAY IN THE BREEZE BEFORE THE SECRET SERVICE BOYS SHOW UP.
I MAY LOSE MY BREAKFAST.
...BOTH OF THEM.
IS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION-- OR ARE THEY STARTING TO SHRINK?
INTERESTING.
EACH OF THEM HAD A SMALL BOX--WITH AN INDENTATION THE SIZE AND SHAPE--
--OF A CAPSULE.
SINCE IT'S DOUBTFUL A PAIR OF GIANTS MANAGED TO SNEAK INTO HYDE PARK...
...MAYBE THAT'S WHAT MADE THEM GROW--AFTER THEY GOT HERE.
SUCH QUICK GROWTH MIGHT'VE TAXED THEIR HEARTS-- SO THEY DIED WITHIN MINUTES.
I JUST HOPE THEY DIDN'T KNOW THEY'D [redacted] SET UP TO SELF-DESTRUCT AFTER COMPLETING THEIR MISSION.

I'LL SHED NO TEARS OVER DEAD NAZIS--BUT WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT, CAP?
IF THOSE TWO WERE AWARE THEY'D DIE WITHIN MOMENTS OF KILLING THE ALLIED LEADERS, THAT'S BAD NEWS.
THAT KIND OF ASSASSIN'S A LOT HARDER TO STOP THAN ONE WHO HOPES TO SURVIVE HIS MISSION.
IF THE DAY EVER COMES WHEN AMERICA CONFRONTS A HORDE OF SUICIDAL FANATICS--IT'S LIABLE TO FIND THEM EVEN HARDER TO DEFEAT THAN AN ARMY.
THEN LET'S PRAY THAT NEVER HAPPENS.
SORRY I RIBBED YOU BEFORE, NAMOR.
MY SKIN IS AS THICK AS YOUR SKULL, TORCH.
BETTER MAKE CERTAIN THE PRESIDENT AND MR. CHURCHILL ARE ALL RIGHT...
OH, DON'T WORRY YOUR PRETTY HEAD ABOUT US, LITTLE MISSY. WE'RE FINE.
NOTHING LIKE A NICE DRIVE IN THE COUNTRY, EH, WINSTON?
INDEED NOT, FRANKLIN. AS I ONCE SAID IN ANOTHER CONTEXT...
"NOTHING IN LIFE IS SO EXHILARATING AS TO BE SHOT AT WITHOUT RESULT."
-fin-

PREVIEW FOR AVENGERS/INVADERS #1
BY ALEX ROSS, JIM KRUEGER & STEPHEN SADOWSKI

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ON SALE MAY 7TH!